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MARCH 22, 2001 [53.27]

Martlet

WEEK FOR THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Sharmeen Khan and Salma Kahal are two UVic students working to combat racism on campus.

photo by Gillian Jerome

Racism on campus: the subtle betrayal

by Gillian Jerome

Glide a magnifying glass across the records here at UVic and the word 'racism' won't shoot up off the page like a hot flint.

"It's not obvious," says UVic leisure student Dane Roberts. "It's something as subtle as a vibe you feel."

Roberts was born and raised here in Victoria. His parents come from the Caribbean island Antigua. His skin is black and he wears his hair in dreadlocks.

"People make a lot of assumptions about me based on that. But it's not like they call me 'nigger.' It's something you can't put your finger on."

On paper, the university community appears to be a fairly happy group, a harmonious bunch like the Cleavers or the chirpy Sound of Music cast.

Well, the hills are alive here at UVic but they don't erupt in sweet, unified melodies. Our community theme song is instead a cagey one; it's got some industrial edge.

Although the reports issued every year from the equity and ombuds offices indicate that racial 'harassment' isn't a common occurrence on campus, students and staff say that racism is embedded in their daily lives.

Last year, one person filed a race complaint with the UVic ombuds Martine Conway, while eight complaints of racial discrimination reached Susan Shaw, Director of the university's Office for the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment.

> People make a lot of assumptions about me based on that. But it's not like they call me 'nigger.' It's something you can't put your finger on.
>
> *Dane Roberts*

Although the university budgets $123,000 toward Shaw's office, no one has ever filed a complaint using the term discrimination because it doesn't exist in a functional policy, although it shows up in the report. Two of the eight complaints over race were investigated formally last year.

At the root of racism is the question of who has the privilege and the power to direct dialogue and initiate change.

When asked whether or not she believes a student of colour may be intimidated about reporting a complaint of racism to a white woman, Shaw says she's has no idea.

"I hire someone to co-mediate."

The Office will be sending three UVic students to a five-day anti-racist leadership training workshop by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) in Washington, D.C. Lauded by *the New York Times* and *USA Today*, the institute says it offers a top-dog workshop in conflict resolution. According to the company website, it comes at the top-brass price of $795 US excluding airfare, hotel and meals. "It's expensive," says Shaw. "But you don't need to know how much. The president's office is paying half."

Among other utopic visions, a 1998 UVic report entitled *Voices for Change* calls for a human rights office, an anti-racist teaching package, a mandatory first-year course on unlearning racism and curriculum which is no longer based on a Eurocentric model.

It's a vision slow to come to fruition.

Off the books, UVic students and staff say racism is up-close and personal here. It's the worst kind of racism, they say. It's that polite, unspoken kind, which leaves you feeling betrayed – as if you are being patted on the back while someone pisses down your leg.

The university has a policy to deal with the sort of "vibes" described by Roberts. Termed the 'chilly climate' policy, it's meant to guard against "a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment," but Shaw says it's never been used. "Not once in the six years I've been here."

•••

Roberts belongs to the Student of Colour collective, a group of UVic students who decided nine years ago to share their common experience of living in a 'white-washed' campus.

Roberts says this year's group lacks the chutzpah to galvanize students who may share the common experience of being second-generation Canadians. Instead, Roberts invests his energy into pursuits like the Caribbean Carnival festival he organized on St. Patrick's Day.

"The fact is that we have to get up and do stuff or the mainstream takes over."

Fourth-year political science student Sharmeen Khan is also part of the collective. Like Dane, Khan is involved in specific events outside the collective. She spent hours working on the Mar. 17 Women of Colour Resisting Globalization conference.

Does the group lack leadership or is there a deeper question involving the semantics of the phrase 'people of colour,' that communal diaspora traipsing happily through the hills?

"We're doing our thing, just not in the same way," says Khan, who also produces a CFUV radio show called *Token Zone*. A Muslim woman whose

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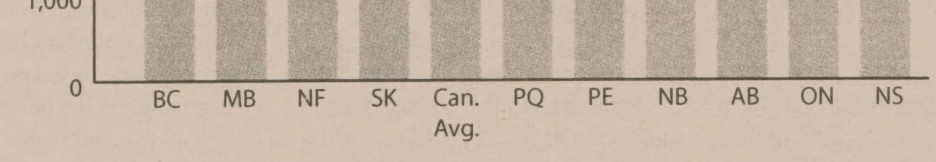

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Peter still banned from SUB despite support

by Gillian Jerome

It was a hot night in the ol' Michele Pujol room as students supporting Peter Verin clashed with board members over their March 12 decision to ban him from the SUB.

After several eloquent testimonies in support of Peter, the board voted in favour of maintaining the ban against him to protect the health and safety of SUB employees.

Verin called the meeting with a 20-signature petition asking that he be allowed in the SUB until his mediation process begins March 23. After two hours of discussion, and several recounts, student society board members voted 7 to 4 against the motion allowing Peter access to the building.

> There's a difference between feeling harassed and being harassed. People downtown say they feel harassed by the poor but they're not actually being harassed.
>
> *Stacy Chappel, who offered Verin access to the VIPIRG office any time.*

The initial decision to keep Peter off SUB premises was made following an in-camera session where Jen Lang, president of the Steelworkers union local representing all SUB employees, filed a grievance in the form of a letter.

UVic student Erika MacTavish who has worked in the SUB building for three years, wrote a letter to Lang and the board. Speaking for a number of students who have complained about Peter in the past, the letter accuses Peter of several inappropriate behaviours including breaking into the SUB building after hours, bathing in the handicap washroom and several episodes of "harassment."

"One minute you'll be talking philosophy with Peter," says MacTavish. "And the next minute his mood changes and he's freaking out."

MacTavish says she likes Peter, in fact, she'd consider him a friend But she has been personally harassed by him on a number of occasions. "He just goes nuts and it's very intimidating both physically and emotionally."

Two SUB janitors who asked not to be named confirmed that both Peter's hygiene and his personal belongings cause problems.

"Peter thinks he's on a mission for the environment," said one janitor. "But what he's really doing is making a disgusting mess."

Workers say they have to throw out recycling with contaminated food wrappers. They have had to wipe up blood as he compacts trash with bare feet. (Peter has been asked several times to wear shoes in the building.) "He has brought unsanitary products into meeting rooms when we have special guests."

But the Peter story isn't so simple. After 20-some years at UVic, Verin has become a part of the community. At least a dozen people spoke in support of him at the meeting. *The Martlet* has received dozens of letters and phone calls showing support. Even Chek TV posted a survey question on their website asking whether or not Peter Verin should be allowed into UVic classes.

The most persuasive arguments in support of Peter at last night's board meeting came from VIPIRG executive director Stacy Chappell and SUB employee Mike Doyle. And, of course, from Peter himself.

Chappell called for a fair trial before accusations manifest into binding decisions. Both of them questioned the factual basis of the UVSS directors' decisions, and urged the student society to take allegations of harassment very seriously before a judgment is made.

"There's a difference between feeling harassed and being harassed. People downtown say they feel harassed by the poor but they're not actually being harassed," says Chappel, who offered Verin access to the VIPIRG office any time. "Peter must be given a fair hearing. It can't be decided that he's a harasser until he's had a chance to address that."

Doyle has worked in the SUB building for three years, both as a door staff supervisor and a general office assistant. "Anybody can assert anything about a person but that doesn't make it true. I've never had a problem with Peter... Are we to ban every person who yells or causes trouble? You're setting a huge precedent here."

Doyle said that the board is misguided if they believe that the union speaks for all students. He suggested that the close working proximity between union president Jen Lang and SUB General Manager Doug Ausman poses a conflict of interest.

"I'm not trying to be a conspiracy theorist but clearly it creates a situation of compromise."

A board member who asked not to be named said the entire conflict can be boiled down to a personality conflict between Peter and Doug Ausman.

Peter sent a letter to Ausman March 6 accusing both campus security and facilities management of harassment. Peter says that Ausman passed it to members of the personnal committee instead.

"Doug Ausman himself removed my entire non-threatening belongings, less than an hour before (and thereby disrupting me) on a Friday, noon CFUV 'Earth First' program, this past summer," Peter wrote in a letter given to every board member March 19.

"This is a reprisal for filing grievances against [those departments]," Peter said when finally given a chance to speak. "So I don't fit into the conventional stereotype of the average person. I've heard a number of accusations against me and I've tried to be inconspicuous. But I'm trying not to be offended by characterizations of me as a criminal."

Ausman says he has no personal vendetta against Peter. "Students have asked me if anybody else could get away with the same sort of behaviour. And I don't know what to tell them."

Ausman couldn't be reached for additional comment before press time.

Board member Andrew McVie, a shop steward at his part-time Safeway job, argued in favour of protecting SUB employees at all costs.

"It's a basic social reality that we have to take care of our employees."

Director-at-large Ben Isitt railed against the board for what he calls "tacit blackmail."

"We were bullied into the decision by a union who threatened us by saying that we could be sued. Everyone jumped on the bandwagon set by Dick Chappel. They said 'jump' and we said 'how high?' We've caused this man to be stripped of his civil liberties."

The mediation process set for March 23 will include representatives from the union, the board, SUB management and Peter himself. They will discuss allegations against Peter and attempt to reach a compromise.

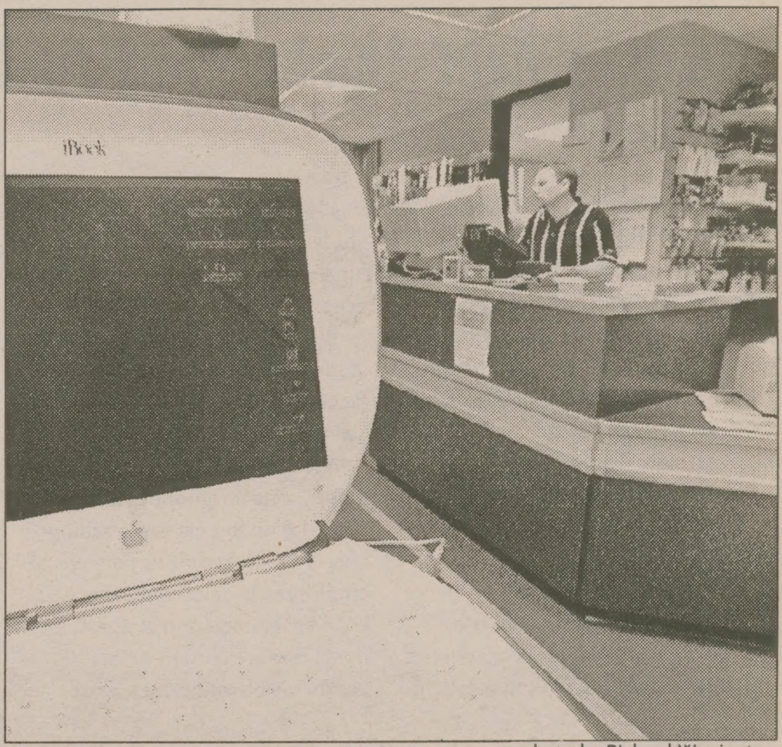

photo by Richard Warrington

New computer store offers competition

by Kevin Groves

If you're in the market for that faster computer to accommodate late-night Starcraft networking, you'll soon have more than one option on campus.

The student society signed a three-year contract with Discovery Computers to rent the space next to Travel CUTS in the SUB, after Re-Creations moved out. Discovery is slotted to open for business March 23.

"We're definitely pleased about opening a store at UVic," said Lauren Boston, administrative assistant for Discovery.

Founded in 1997 by former UVic students Jim Koutougos and Shaun Haagensen, Discovery specializes in custom-built computers for its clients. They promise assembly and delivery in two business days.

The chain began locally with small retail outlets in Gordon Head, Oak Bay, Vic West and Nanaimo, with several stores in the B.C. interior due to open soon. SUB General Manager Doug Ausman said Discovery offered the best application of the four computer company proposals received.

With sales tipping $6 million last year, Discovery proved themselves financially viable, Ausman said. The society has a mandate to bring companies connected to the local community into the building. Discovery has a unique "UVic angle," he said.

UVic's current computer store will have new competition, especially in the service department. Discovery will service any computer that enters the store, unlike UVic, which will only service computers bought in-house.

Greg Awai, outgoing UVSS director of finance, said that the original decision to give Discovery the lease was based on an impression that UVic's computer store only sold Macintosh products, an impression coordinator Kevin Burns says is misleading.

"We've been offering a more extensive product offering than that since we started here 13 years ago, including Ma's and other brands like Compaq and Hewlett-Packard. Our clone offerings also seem to be similar to Discovery."

Despite Awai's misinformed product knowledge, he said the two stores wouldn't create any serious competition for each other.

"I considered it to be less of a competition issue. I'm not really worried about it, and there were no real complaints at the board meeting," said Awai.

Price wise, Burns believes products offered at both stores will cost about the same. "Unless they want to lose money, I'd be surprised if our prices weren't the same or better than what Discovery's offering."

While Burns says UVic's computer store provides decent alternatives for students, he takes issue with a for-profit store in the SUB building. All the money generated from the UVic computer store remains on campus, but Discovery doesn't have that mandate, Burns said.

"I can't tell the UVSS what to do, and I understand that they have to generate revenue, but my reaction to Discovery being here is mixed."

There are also some on campus who are a little more suspicious of the move to allow Discovery Computers into the SUB.

Peter Verin, who had presented a proposal to put a cultural resource centre in the space slotted for Discovery, said that the UVSS seems to be only concerned with generating revenue.

"They didn't even get back to me on my idea. The size of Travel CUTS, the hair salon and Discovery Computers together is the same as a regional library. Clearly, the UVSS' need to generate revenue is at issue here, which brings up the question of student empowerment in the SUB."

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'No one ever thinks they're being racist'

continued from the cover

family immigrated from Pakistan in 1976, Khan has become what she calls "a mouthpiece" for women of colour on campus. She says that while it's tiring, she's happy to speak on issues involving race and gender.

"Most women don't want to talk. They resent being called upon because their skin isn't white."

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According to a year 2000 equity report, visible minorities account for almost nine per cent of teaching faculty compared to 14 per cent of employees in sales and service.

If we look at the mind as a holograph for behaviour and thought, language becomes a manifestation of perception, the limited human kind. Most academics argue that while racism manifests in behaviour, it's an epistemological problem at its core – one perpetuated by language. The term 'people of colour,' for example, creates a binary opposition also based on white privilege. Is race ultimately a European construct?

"In physical anthropology and archaeology, anthropologists have long contested the very concept of race. Race has no anatomical, physiological or genetic basis; it is a cultural construct," says Anthropology chair Peter Stephenson. "Simply put, there is more variation within so-called 'racial' groups, no matter where boundaries are drawn separating them, than there is between them. End of story.

"But, it is, alas, not the end... because people seem to find it (race) such a handy way to slot others into categories. Such relegations are what the very concept is really all about. Otherwise, it has no use."

•••

It's difficult to say how many UVic students describe themselves as 'non-white.' The university doesn't keep accurate records.

But it's easy to see that UVic's student population, as well as its faculty and staff, is predominantly 'white'.

According to a year 2000 equity report, visible minorities account for almost nine per cent of teaching faculty compared to 14 per cent of employees in sales and service. Of UVic's eight senior managers, six are male, two are female, with a big fat zip for visible minorities, First Nations people and people with disabilities. First Nations representation at UVic is abysmal at less than one per cent of faculty and sessionals.

The numbers are clear, but they're limited. They don't describe curriculum nor can they qualify what goes on inside the classroom. UVic women's studies Prof. Joanne Lee teaches several courses on race, racialization and racism, including anti-racist feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism and feminism. She addresses incidents of racism in the classroom about ten times a term.

"Most students [and faculty] are totally unaware of their privilege or the way that racial thinking is fully integrated, embedded and assumed in their consciousness of the world."

She describes racism here on campus as subtle or polite racism. "People just say the most outrageous things and are totally unaware that they have said something offensive. You can't tackle it all. You have to pick your fights carefully."

Lee believes that with some exceptions, the UVic community is in denial over its racism.

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Julius Davies, 23, studies Computer Science. He calls himself one of few 'white guys' in classes where, he says, racism surfaces often, though most people wouldn't define it as such.

"A Chinese student in my class (who got an A+!) kept asking 'What do you mean?' questions.

"This one time she asked, 'What do you mean by ambiguous?' She didn't know the word. So the Prof., a real good guy, answered, and right then, next to me, a white guy hissed 'Learn English.'"

The funny thing is, says Davies, no one ever thinks they're being racist at the time, himself included.

"I actually confronted him on it, but really lamely. 'I really don't think you should say things like this in here.' I emphasized 'here' as in, look around you, moron.

"I don't like the way I confronted him, because it implies that had we been in a class of 99 per cent white guys, than what he said would be fine."

UVic English sessional Susan Elderkin believes that as an educator, it's her job to be actively anti-racist. "Oddly enough, I get accused of including texts that are anti-white. And it's happened several times."

But Elderkin and Lee are rarities says UVic student Carrie Ann Taylor, a fourth-year history student who says she picks her courses carefully according to the instructor's willingness to work with race, class and gender privilege.

Taylor believes that racism decoded in our language results in a more learned culture, whether it's in an academic paper or a conversation that happens in the street.

"I choose Profs. with whom I don't have to fight it. I'm here to learn. I don't want to waste my time. It's that simple."

on the spot

by Richard Warrington

Do you perceive your program's curriculum to be culturally diverse?

Janos Sitar
4th year English, Greek and Roman studies
No. They've gotten better and hopefully they'll continue to.

Mike Dobell
4th year Pacific and Asian studies
Yes. One of my classes is 90 per cent Asian and another is 50/50 Caucasian. It's two cultural groups, effectively.

Eli Baker
unclassified, History
No. It's as 'white' as 'white' can be. I think Victoria is a very 'white' city in general. Having studied Canadian history – I can understand why.

FTAA teach-in organizes local activists

All day teach-in to educate locals about costs of Free Trade

by Jason Gondziola

In one month, leaders from all over the Americas will converge on a heavily fortified Quebec City to discuss the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

This weekend, local residents will have the opportunity to educate themselves about the environmental and social costs of global trade. Topics to be discussed include working conditions in Mexico, privatization of public services, the negotiation process of the FTAA, and environmental impacts of free trade. Each informational session will be followed by workshops involving the panelists in further discussion on their particular issues.

"Just because the draft is being kept secret from the public doesn't mean that we need to be kept uninformed," said John Thompson, coordinator of MGJ. "The goal of the teach-in is to raise awareness about this cryptic trade deal and how it threatens the autonomy of local governments."

The open forum contrasts the FTAA negotiations, which will be held entirely in secret. The actual text of the agreement has also remained classified, despite massive pressure from people all over the Americas.

The FTAA aims to expand the reach of the existing North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and will give corporations powers which supercede the legal abilities of all levels of existing governments.

Under NAFTA, corporations can sue governments for activities that may hurt profits. One example is the suing of Canada Post by the United Parcel Service (UPS). Canada Post, a public company, is subsidized by the Canadian government. UPS is using Chapter 11 to argue that this constitutes an unfair competitive advantage under NAFTA's Chapter 11.

Critics are concerned that similar lawsuits will invade other public spheres, including healthcare and education.

"Our government assures us that they are not going to liberalize healthcare and education, while at the same time, they are assuring trade delegates that nothing will be left off the table," said Thompson. "They can't be telling the truth to both parties."

The Victoria Mobilization for Global Justice (MGJ) will be holding an all day teach-in on the FTAA and its effects in the Michele Pujol Room in the SUB on Saturday, March 24.

Tickets for the teach-in are $20 waged, $10 student, and $5 unwaged. To pre-register call 382-2163 or email ftaa_teachin@yahoo.ca.

Corrupt polls: UVic students and prof to observe possible foil in Peru

by Keely Hunter

A group of UVic students and faculty are making a run for the border to observe the upcoming elections in Peru.

Common Borders, a non-profit society associated with UVic's Latin American Association, is sending a group of eight students to the South American country.

Kathy McKay, a history masters student, went to Mexico on a similar program.

"We were in training for a week. Then we stayed all day at one polling station. Some people traveled through their assigned region," she said.

Observers stay right in the accredited polling area, and do exactly that. (Canada does not allow observers in the polling area.)

While the group can only watch, McKay said it is very useful to see how some elections are corrupt. During the Mexican elections there were often "strong guys" waiting outside the poling area, McKay said. Some people held up their ballots to prove they voted the way they were paid to.

"We can't police, but we document and take pictures in the area and report to the electoral officers."

Transparencia, a Peruvian not-for-profit group promoting democracy, invited Common Borders to observe this important election.

When the Common Borders delegation arrives April 3, they will meet with human rights and women's organizations, as well as with the main political parties to "get a take on what they expect from these elections, sort of a pulse on the nation," explained outbound political science and Spanish student Laura Hunt.

The people of Peru will go to the polls April 8 to select their president and members of congress.

Peru's national elections of April 2000 saw President Alberto Fujimori win an unprecedented and, according to Transparencia, an "unconstitutional third term as president."

Peru has instituted changes since allegations of widespread corruption, associated with the President Fujimori.

Allegations of fraud and corruption caused President Fujimori to resign suddenly last October while on a trade mission in Japan where he has since remained.

Meanwhile, the nation's congress subsequently voted to reject his resignation and instead declared him to be "morally incapable" of governing.

As a result of these developments, Peru has undertaken steps to reform its constitution and the nation's electoral institutions and processes.

Political science professor Tom Legler said because of the reforms introduced, this years election will be a totally different process.

"There are a lot more guarantees that it will be a lot cleaner," he said.

Come to the Son de Cuba fundraiser dance March 29 in the grad lounge at 8 p.m.

Walkout calls for boycott, ethical stock

photo by Carmel Ecker

UVic and Camosun students rally for wilderness conservation by the Petch fountain .

by Michael Cox

Over 200 students from UVic and Camosun walked out of classes March 16 to protest unsustainable logging practices in the province.

Student Awareness for Vital Earth (SAVE) organized the walk out, urging students to question the university's investment practices.

They converged outside the Student Union Building to chant and listen to speakers.

SAVE spokesperson Glenys Verhulst condemned UVic for using paper in campus photocopiers bought from the multinational logging firm Weyerhaeuser, and urged the crowd to petition the university to switch to tree-free or recycled paper.

> Look at those trees out there folks. They're the Taj Mahal of Canada.
>
> *Stacey Burke*

"Get Weyerhaeuser off campus," Verhulst chanted to the crowd.

She urged people to become informed about UVic's investments in companies such as Shell Oil, Imperial Oil and the Toronto Dominion Bank, companies responsible for environmental and human rights abuses.

UVic should have an ethical screening process, Verhulst argued, which would allow students the opportunity for input.

"This process would bring the reassurance that we are not contributing to environmental destruction," she said.

Stacey Burke, also from SAVE, said environmentalists have a media image of being radicals, but their platform is about conservation.

"We're here to support loggers. We want them to have jobs for life," she said. "The current rate of over-cut isn't sustainable.

"Look at those trees out there folks. They're the Taj Mahal of Canada."

Forests enhance the natural beauty of the province, but also represent thousands of jobs throughout B.C.

Ken James, a member of the newly formed Youbou Timberless Society who spoke at the action, said the environment and the economy can work in the forests together.

"We believe an environmental ethic can co-exist with a work ethic," he said. "Our methods may be different but our message is the same: we want jobs for the future and forests for the future."

Youbou mill workers, who are jobless after TimberWest closed the mill in January, are attempting to buy back the tree-farm license so local workers can still process the logs.

TimberWest jilted mill workers by refusing to sell the license, James said. The company has offered to sell the license and the mill to the society, but the price tag is $33 million.

"All we've asked for is the right to buy the logs from TimberWest," James said. "Every log that goes out of there is a job going out of the province."

William George, from the Native Students Union, said there has to be a shift back to sustainable land use.

"Before colonization, Native communities had an almost 100 per cent sustainability," he said. "We as individuals and communities have a responsibility to the land."

Ken Wu, from the Western Canadian Wilderness Committee, said rallies and lobbying the government has lead to some victories – such as the recently scrapped working forest legislation, which would have created permanent logging areas in the province – but there are more fights to come.

"There's no degree of scarcity that will force these companies to self-regulate if they can still make a profit," he said. "We need to say 'no more' to corporate logging in our ancient forests and watersheds."

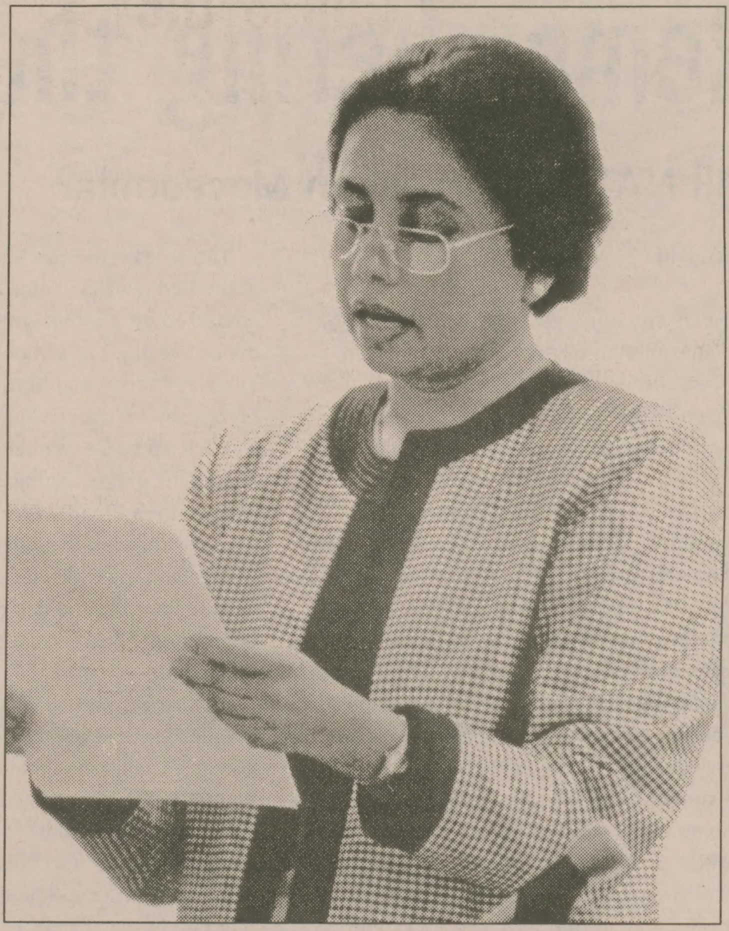

photo by Miguel R. MacDonald

SFU professor Habiba Zaman speaking at Women of Colour Resisting Globalization Conference held at the BCGEU building March 17. Zaman is a preeminent researcher, writer and teacher on woman and development, women of colour in Canada and contemporary race and gender issues.

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Feds targeted in local seal hunt protest

by Jason Gondziola

Local activists concerned about the annual slaughter of seals took a stand this week.

Fifteen protesters converged on the Norwegian Consulate on Wharf Street to deliver a letter explaining their part in a worldwide demonstration against the annual Norwegian slaughter of seals.

The activists then led a procession to deliver the same message to David Anderson's office, handing out leaflets along the way.

The event was organized by Global Action Against Seal Hunts (GAASH), an international coalition of animal rights and environmental groups leading a global campaign in 24 cities and 13 countries around the world.

"This issue is extremely important for a number of reasons," said Sandra Carlson, a member of Citizens for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (CETA). "First of all, we are finding that a lot of people truly believe that the seal hunt has stopped, so we need to do everything we can to raise the awareness that our government is needlessly slaughtering hundreds of thousands of seals each year."

The Norwegian and Canadian governments subsidize seal hunting and related activities. Last year the Norweigan government set aside an amount equivalent to $1.7 million (US) for hunters and fur processing plants.

> We need to do everything we can to raise the awareness that our government is needlessly slaughtering hundreds of thousands of seals each year.
>
> *Sandra Carlson*

The Canadian government supports the sealing industry with a focus on developing new products and markets in order for the failing industry to become economically viable.

Government-subsidized seal hunts attempt to bolster falling fish populations as seals are natural predators of certain types of fish. This tactic is totally unjustified say GAASH members.

"Our campaign against the seal hunt serves to demonstrate how the government and the fishing industry refuse to take the blame for the collapse of the commercial Atlantic Cod fishery," said Carlson. "The seals have always been blamed for eating all the cod when there is no scientific evidence to prove that. There is, however, evidence to show that the government failed to act sooner to avoid a complete collapse of the Atlantic cod fishery."

An ideal alternative, according to Carlson, is to leave the seal populations alone and let nature handle things. "They have existed alongside the cod for thousands, if not millions, of years, and during that time populations of both species were thriving."

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Remembering the Kosovo War

Will NATO Intervene in Macedonia?

by Ben Isitt

Two years ago this week, on March 24, 1999, warplanes piloted by men and women from 15 NATO countries stormed across the Adriatic Sea from an Italian airfield and dropped their fiery payloads over Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

For 78 days, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization inflicted significant material damage on civilian, government, industrial and military infrastructure. All the bridges in the city of Novi Sad were destroyed, as were communications centres, factories and government buildings in Belgrade. In Kosovo province, the airport and central bus depot, as well as sewage, water and electrical systems were destroyed.

A convoy of 80 Albanian refugees fleeing the bombing of the town of Korisa was blown apart by NATO cluster bombs May 23. A week later, a bus carrying 39 Albanians – 15 of them children – was bombed in northern Kosovo killing everyone on board.

One tenth of the 20,000 bombs that exploded in Yugoslavia were dropped by Canadian pilots. Representatives of the NATO countries called the war a "humanitarian intervention."

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was deemed a tyrant, a new Hitler. He was accused of carrying out a campaign of genocide against Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority, who until 1989 enjoyed far-reaching autonomy within the Yugoslav federation. Representing 90 per cent of the population of Kosovo, Albanians controlled the government and education system and operated an Albanian-language university in Pristina.

But Kosovo was the site of an epic battle in 1389, where Serbs drove out Turkish invaders. Milosevic used repression of the Serb minority in Kosovo to fuel the flames of Serb nationalism and consolidate his own hold on power, assuming the presidency of Serbia in 1989 and Yugoslavia in 1997.

Kosovar autonomy was rescinded and Pristina university was closed. Thousands of ethnic Albanian civil servants were fired and replaced with Serbs.

At the same time, the Yugoslav federation was falling apart. Since the end of WWII, a combination of compromise and force under General Josip Tito's leadership pushed ethnic questions onto the back burner.

Tito's death in 1980 was followed by the fall of the *Berlin wall in* 1989, and the West embarked on a campaign to rid the world of the last vestiges of a state-managed economy. The Free Market had to triumph over all Europe, and stubborn Yugoslavia was in the way. Fueled by German and American diplomatic and economic support, Slovenia left in 1991, then Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia. Civil war raged in the Balkans. Tales of mass killings and mass displacement on all sides were followed by the deployment of international peace keepers, including Canadians.

In Kosovo, with all legal avenues of independence severed by the Yugoslav police and army, militant Albanian separatism flourished. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) gained support, and by 1999 controlled between one-half and three-quarters of the province's territory. Roughly 1800 deaths were reported in the 12 months preceding the commencement of NATO's air war, one-third of them Serb.

A peace conference was held in Rambouillet, France in Feb. 1999. NATO leaders demanded free access to all of Yugoslavia for a peacekeeping force, and challenged Yugoslav sovereignty over Kosovo. Many suggest Milosevic was presented with an agreement he could not possibly have signed. Talks broke down and Europe prepared for its first land war since 1945.

Enter NATO. Western newspapers now declared that force was needed to reign in Milosevic and save Kosovo's Albanian majority from genocide. The word evoked images of Auschwitz and Rwanda, something much larger than the casualties of a civil war between rebels and state forces.

With NATO planes booming through the sky, Milosevic now had the opportunity to rid Kosovo of the Albanian population and secure the province for the Serbs. Days after the first bombs landed on Belgrade, 10,000 Yugoslav troops stormed into the province, triggering the displacement of 500,000 ethnic Albanians. These refugees surged into camps on the fringes of Macedonia and Albania, their faces beamed to television screens across the globe.

Now a real humanitarian crisis existed, rejigging NATO's stated goals. The West was now bombing Belgrade so Kosovo's ethnic Albanians could return to their homes.

One tenth of the 20,000 bombs that exploded in Yugoslavia were dropped by Canadian pilots. Representatives of the NATO countries called the war a "humanitarian intervention."

Western armies converged on Albania and plans for a NATO invasion of Yugoslavia were drawn up. But support among NATO's 14 member nations began to wane. A reported 98 per cent of Greeks were opposed to the bombing, and militant demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of people in Athens unfolded.

Support for the air war was also waning in Italy, a threat to NATO's continued use of the air base at Aviano. German Foreign Minister Joscha Fisher, a Green Party member and self-avowed Marxist Leninist in his youth, was splashed with red paint at the Green's convention in Berlin.

In Victoria, an anti-war coalition was organized, bringing together members of the local Serb community, trade unionists and social justice advocates. Weekly demonstrations and vigils were held, as well as a teach-in in UVic's Fraser Building attended by roughly 400 citizens. Similar events took place in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax.

In June 1999, a ceasefire was declared and the bombing stopped. Milosevic agreed to the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo and to the establishment of a United Nations protectorate in the province. NATO and UN troops were barred from the rest of Yugoslavia.

NATO armies then swept into Kosovo. A convoy of Russian trucks seized Pristina airport by surprise, but following frantic negotiations, NATO took control of the province. Canadian, Italian, German, American and British troops occupied different sectors of the country. An administration under Frenchman Bernard Kouchner was established.

But unfortunately the fighting didn't end.

Days after NATO's occupation of Kosovo, violence between Serbs and Albanians in the town of Kosovska-Mitrovica had to be broken up by French troops and tear gas. There were similar clashes and ethnic tensions all over Kosovo, with thousands of Serbs fleeing the province. Milosevic's forces were no longer in the picture; Western armies and 50,000 NATO troops were containing KLA.

The Albanian rebels were ordered to disarm, and altercations between NATO and KLA forces became frequent. Meanwhile, Western companies, such as Calgary-based Meridian Resources, were granted contracts on the reconstruction of Kosovo's power, sewage and war infrastructure. Plans for an oil pipeline from central Asia to Europe, bisecting the province, were already well underway.

By October, mass uprisings in Belgrade put opposition leader Vojislav Kostunica into power. Milosevic had been defeated in general elections a week earlier but failed to admit defeat. His Socialist party's hold on power was further weakened in Serbian parliamentary elections in Dec. 1999.

Yugoslavia is no longer a pariah. In early March 2001, Kosovo's UN administration quietly allowed the Yugoslav army back into Kosovo to help contain the KLA. A German military base in neighbouring Macedonia was attacked by Albanian rebels and tensions between rebel and Macedonian forces escalated in the border town of Tetevo. Murmurs of "international intervention" made their way into Western newspapers.

On March 20, three days before the second anniversary of the Kosovo War, the first photograph of an Albanian refugee appeared in the *Times Colonist*. The struggle for Albanian self-determination is heating up, regional security forces are responding and the media is faithfully mobilizing public opinion.

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Trade agreement puts corporate rights above human rights

by Darren Stewart

OTTAWA (CUP) — Legal experts said investor rights could become more important than human rights in a world governed by the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA).

Canada should oppose this trend and work to protect and recognize international human rights laws that have already been ratified, said Warren Allmand, a former Liberal cabinet minister and current president of Rights and Democracy.

Allmand took part Tuesday in an expert panel that made recommendations regarding human rights within trade agreements to the House of Commons' standing committee on trade.

The committee will make a recommendation to the Canadian government regarding its position on free trade when it attends the upcoming Summit of the Americas meeting in Quebec City.

At the April 20 to 22 meeting of 34 countries, officials will be hammering out the terms of a 2005 free trade agreement for an area stretching from the Artic to Argentina.

Critics fear the FTAA will allow investors rights to override workers' and women's rights and are looking for governments to agree on a way to enforce human rights within the agreement.

Allmand said Canada has ratified various international declarations on human rights that should apply to trade.

"Otherwise we are hypocrites. We say one thing and vote one way on human rights when it is convenient to do so, then go out and sign trade agreements that totally ignore or contradict our human rights commitments."

Allmand recommended an overhaul of the proposed trade agreement to include room to comply with international agreements, rather than override them. He said Canada should take advantage of the FTAA negotiations as a way of re-examining international human rights obligations and seek to ensure that there are no conflicts with the proposed trade agreement.

According to Allmand, claims by the Canadian government that it intends to meet human rights guidelines are still suspect because the details of their plan are still unavailable.

"We await the specific texts and find it absolutely unbelievable that they aren't already before members of parliament and the public."

He said there are various examples of how human rights violations are overridden by investor rights under the World Trade Organization and the North American Free Trade Agreement. He fears the FTAA will be no different.

Bill Dymond, executive director for the Centre for Trade Policy and Law, a collection of trade-law experts, said criticism of trade agreements when it comes to human rights are unfounded because the richest countries in the hemisphere have the best human rights records.

"It won't work to keep these countries poor by denying them free trade agreements," said Dymond, who was also part of the panel. "Their human rights record will stay poor as well."

But Bloc MP Francine Lalonde said it would be wrong to see free trade as a "saviour" for poorer countries in the coming years because so far it has not translated into better distribution of wealth in countries like Mexico that are already in free trade agreements.

"We have to be careful not to make trade into a dogma that it creates wealth," she said.

She said it is important to remember that trade and the fight against poverty do not go hand-in-hand.

Svend Robinson, the New Democratic Party's trade critic, said he worries that intellectual property will become better protected than health and the environment under the FTAA.

As an example, he pointed to the drug companies that are blocking distribution of affordable AIDS medication in South Africa under WTO rules.

He said he worries that penalization of governments and corporations under the FTAA for violating trade rules will be harsher than the consequences of violating human rights.

Indebted students staying in school, study finds

by Mark Greenan

OTTAWA (CUP) – A recent Statistics Canada study shows that students with more than $15,000 in student loans are more likely to go on to post-graduate studies than students without loans.

The study concludes that students may go on to other degrees as a means of postponing loan payment. Or students who have large loans may be students "who are strongly committed to a long-term educational goal... and are willing to accumulate significant debt to achieve this goal."

George Butlin, a senior research analyst with Statistics Canada and the author of the study, said the results do not indicate that high tuition fees aren't an impediment to students.

"It doesn't deal with access to university because the [survey] population is bachelor's graduates," he said. "It does talk about the factors affecting the educational choices of graduates."

The author also cautioned about reading too much into the results, which are based on data about university graduates from 1990.

"It's important to remember that this is just one cohort of graduates from one year. Last year's cohort could be different, we don't know," he said.

Michael Conlon, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, said the study doesn't contradict his organization's findings that universities are growing inaccessible due to high tuition fees.

"This study doesn't refute any of the arguments we've been making about student debt," he said.

Conlon pointed out that the study dealt with graduates in 1990, a year before tuition fees across the country began to increase significantly.

"Statistics Canada and other researchers are still unable to find a way to measure what we feel is the most important statistic – the numbers of students that are not entering university because of high tuition fees and the fear of student debt."

However, Hymie Rubenstein, an anthropology professor at the University of Manitoba and fellow at the Fraser Institute, a right-wing think-tank, said Statistics Canada should focus their attention elsewhere.

"I've heard anecdotal evidence that students use their student loans to pay for luxury items such as spring break trips to Aculpulco," he said. "What we need is a comprehensive study on who is taking out student loans and what they are spending the money on."

The study, which was published in Statistics Canada's *Education Quarterly Review*, also showed that:

- Nearly two-thirds of graduates furthered their education.
- Men, younger graduates and graduates with parents who took master's or doctoral programs were more likely to further their education.
- Business and commerce graduates and part-time students were less likely to further their education.
- Being a co-op student or of a visible minority didn't have much impact on students' odds of furthering their education.

Retired U of T professors file lawsuit asking for equity

by Kim Edwards

TORONTO (CUP) – A group of retired female professors has filed a lawsuit against the University of Toronto, charging that they didn't receive the same pay as male colleagues.

The women, led by award-winning biographer Phyllis Grosskurth, are asking that they receive retroactive payments equal to the discrepancies in salaries, along with interest and adjustments to their pensions and benefits.

"We're playing hardball," said Grosskurth. "We want equal pay with the men."

However, the administration at U of T says the women's demands are unreasonable.

"It's quite a request. To my knowledge it's unprecedented what they're asking for," said Michael Finlayson, vice-president of administration and human resources at U of T.

"This has implications for every employer in Ontario with pay equity. Never has retroactivity been considered. It seems unreasonable to ask for."

According to Grosskurth, the lawsuit was prompted by a 1991 settlement that the university paid out to retiring female faculty and librarians. These equity payments, which totaled about $2 million, didn't go to anyone who retired before 1991.

"[Then university president Robert] Prichard wouldn't pay a cent to anyone who retired before that date," said Grosskurth. "Some of these women are living in actual penury, I can tell you."

When new president Robert Birgeneau came to the University of Toronto with a reputation of commitment to pay equity, Grosskurth expected that lobbying, which included letter writing and negotiations with the faculty association, would result in equity payments to women who retired before 1991.

Today, she says she is "cross" with Birgeneau.

"He would be doing such a great thing for the university, it would cost the university so little – there are only 60 women involved. Instead there's all the bad publicity of a lawsuit."

But the administration is more cautious.

"What obligations do we have to correct the past, assuming that their allegations are true?" asked Finlayson.

He said it would even be difficult for the university to find the money in its operating budget to pay the women.

Faculty association president Rhonda Love said her group is supporting the women's cause during pension negotiations with the university.

"We continue to represent the women and we are sympathetic with their position. We feel that most of them have been disadvantaged. Our pension proposal directly addresses pay equity," she said.

However, Grosskurth said the faculty association's negotiations with the university are inadequate for their needs. "We're pretty low down in their priorities," she said.

Representatives from Birgeneau's office declined comment.

NEWS?

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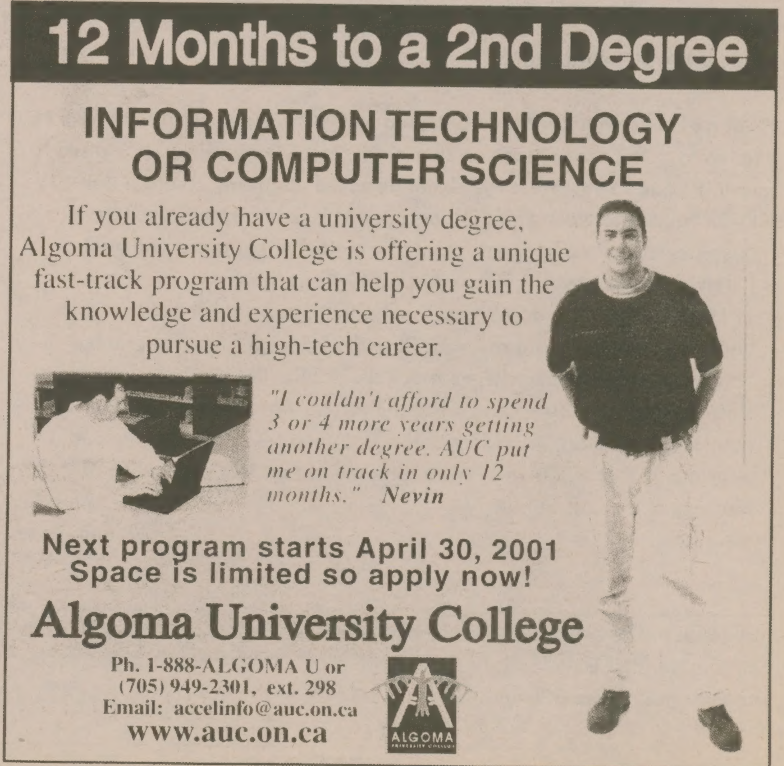
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EDITORIAL:

First-person postcards on discrimination

As an Aboriginal person, I experience racism in various ways. One way is being viewed through stereotypes. I will give you two examples.

Drunk Indian:

Last weekend I caught an evening bus from the university. The bus driver came up to me. He asked if I knew where I was going. I responded yes. He then asked if I knew where I was. I responded yes again. He went back to his seat. There were other people on the bus but I was the only person he asked if I knew where I was and where I was going. At this point in my life, I don't drink but I am sometimes still viewed as a drunken Indian.

Teacher of Aboriginal Cultures:

I am open to sharing what I know of my culture with others but I am sometimes expected to know about all Aboriginal cultures. One morning, I was having breakfast downtown. A woman asked me if I could tell her about the First Nation. First, I told her that there are many nations across the continent. She replied that she did not know this. She then said that she wanted to know about the local First Nations so that she could help them. I told her that I was not from this territory and did not know the history of the territory, but this was not an acceptable answer. She said that I had to do some research and come back to share this research and tell her how she can help the First Nations people. I do not hold anything against this person. She had good intentions. Where racism comes in this situation is in the attitude and mindset that a person from one culture is superior and another person from a different culture is inferior and that the inferrior people need help.

William George

Writing on racism as self-congratulatory

More on the racism topic. I have trouble with white english-speaking people initiating yet another dialogue on racism. While you may pride yourself on being very politically correct, did it ever occur to you that every time the subject of racism is brought up it is yet another reminder for minorities of how we control the discourse, how it is always about us, our domination and exploitation of them. I spent today at a symposium of museum curators talking about creating narratives and one of the most moving talks was given by a First Nations woman who said that she is really disinterested in the de-colonializing discourse now. She is tired of talking about how whites have controlled and destroyed her culture, there are so many other stories to be told and time is getting short for her people to re-connect with their own culture and tell their own stories. I was very moved by her talk and feel that she should be listened to. I am not suggesting that there is no racism, or that it is not worth looking at, only that when the request for storylines about it comes from us – white folks– we should perhaps question whether it is just more of the same. To me it wreaks of self-mastabatory guilt relief and I think giving minority cultures space to talk about who they are in their own context would be of more value to those groups than yet another column aimed at reminding them about how down-trodden they are. This has been written in a little bit of haste but I hope that you can see my point.

Valerie Rawlings

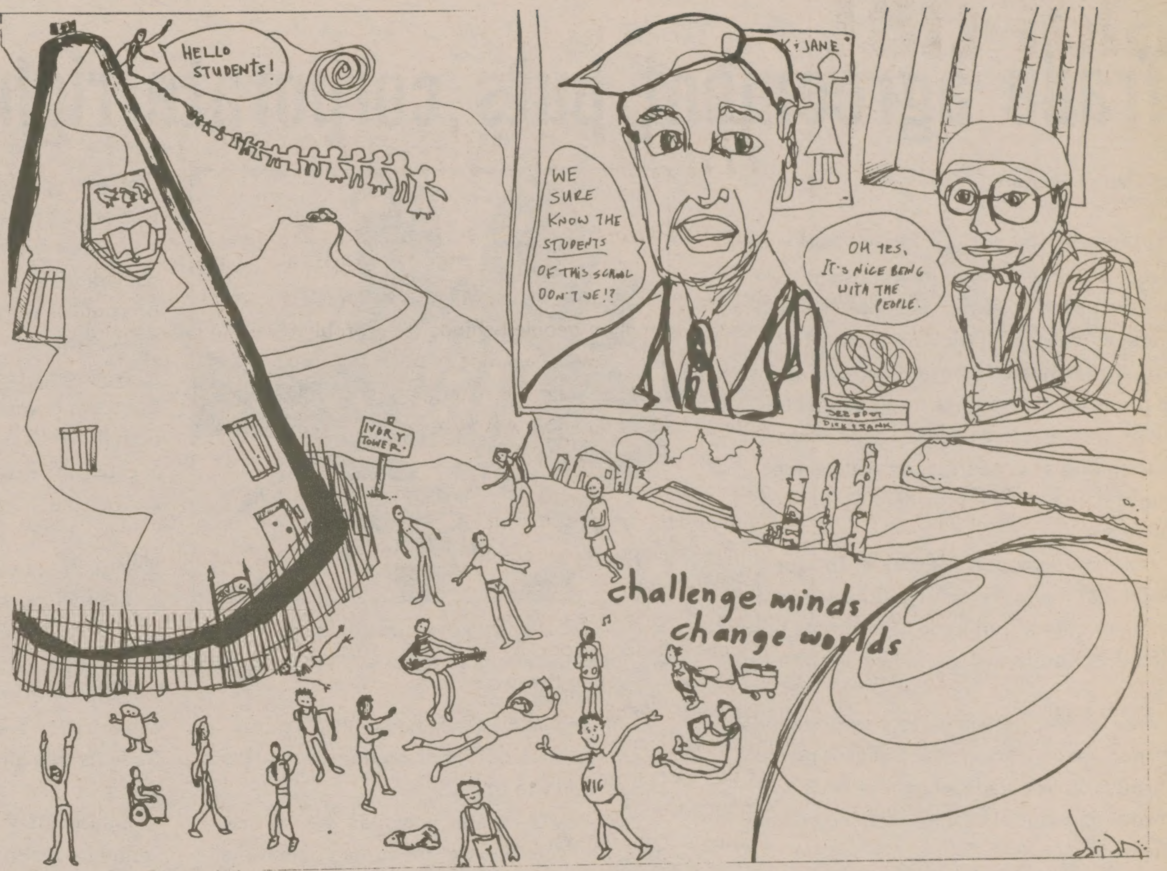
Looking at privilege

I don't know what it's like to be asked where I'm from. (And then have to listen to, 'Oh I read a book on that place once.' Or, 'I've always wanted to visit.') I don't know what it's like to be asked about my accent. I don't know what is to work a shit job because of lack of opportunity. I haven't been treated as a scapegoat for all of a culture's ignorance and guilt. Rarely do people touch my hair because it feels 'cool.'

I inhabit a world I don't have to negotiate, translate or battle with because of the colour of my skin. Race is a concept I take for granted because ultimately it privileges me. Race. White. Colour. These words are slivers in the skin: little categorical deliveries. Words are powerful and political: they distinguish hierarchies. But gestures speak just as loud. I wear the skin of a lion and I'm caught: my racism, my own sense of privilege is difficult to hide.

Erin Brady

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at noon in SUB B011. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff.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LETTERS:

Respect and protests, together

"Walkout for Wilderness." This phrase rings with rebellion, with disruption of the system. But let's stop for a minute and think about whom we're rebelling against. Our professors? University administration? They aren't responsible for the forestry policies of the government of B.C. Granted, disrupting classes with a "walkout" guaranteed a more widespread awareness of the protest and eco-fair of March 16. But is it the kind of awareness we environmentalists want? Use of rebellious slogans targeting the wrong institution labels us as immature, reactionary and shortsighted. Such a reputation will not help us to protect B.C.'s forests. It will decrease our respectability and the weight people accord to environmentalist views.

I chose not to walk out, partly because of the concerns I state above. Also, however, I feel that the lessons I learn in my class about power and privilege help me resist the system as much as any protest. A certain walkout spokesperson seemed unable to respect this decision, barging into the class at 11:10 and subjecting us to a barrage of slogan-yelling.

Be vocal, aggressive, visible. But be respectful. Otherwise people will not respect you; and you won't be heard, no matter how loud you yell.

Sarah Burgess

No vaginas in *Maxim*

Much to my personal surprise, it appears that the social conservatives are alive and well on campus: they are the ones banning *Maxim* magazine. That's right: it seems our friends in supposedly left-wing organizations are the ones who take such a hard line on girls taking their clothes off. I am assuming Canadian Alliance memberships on campus are about to become a hot ticket.

Of course, this does not conflict with *the Martlet*'s acceptance of showing a vagina with all the parts carefully detailed. Not at all. No chance.

It seems while the girls of *Maxim*, which have all their private parts carefully covered, are somehow more offensive than girls showing their most intimate parts. But of course, when certain people are offended by the latter rather than the former, they are told to "chill out." Hypocrisy? I think so.

This is a democracy, and some things might offend you because we have free speech. If you cannot deal with free speech, move to China, where you will have no arguments over a difference of opinions: an organization like UVic runs the place.

Patrick McClarty

Conspiracy in the Boardroom

Campus Security and Senior Management collaborated and retaliated, in eight and thirteen days respectively, in response to a grievance filed against three bodies (themselves included). It was established after the March 19 *Martlet* interview that Doug Ausman, SUB General Manager who was mentioned in the grievance, retrieved twelve copies of a four-page document slipped under the door of the UVSS Board of Directors meeting the Monday preceding February's A.G.M. He distributed the documents, intended for the B.o.D. to only the Personnel Committee that he controls (one member, it was leaked to me on Sunday, takes orders directly from upper management, then harangues colleagues, thereby influencing their decisions). Conveniently legal of conflicted self-interest? Who's watching the watchdogs? All action since then, including suppression of the grievance and the informer and inform on a need-to-know basis network, deleted in the previous *Martlet*, for legal reasons, I presume, constitute conflict of interest. I maintain that the B.o.D., like the previous week's Steelworkers' misrepresentative actions, was presounded and that therefore "deja vu:" nothing said or done made the

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MONOLOGUE:

Traffic: a whitewashed vision of American drug policy

by Rana Phagurra

By the end of 2001, America will have locked two million people behind bars. This number corresponds to one quarter of the total estimated world prison population. America, with five per cent of the world's population, will have 25 per cent of its prisoners. In 1960 America's inmate population (not counting illegal immigrants or minors) stood at 333,000 and rose over the next two decades to 474,000 by the end of 1980. However, in the two decades that followed 1980, this number quadrupled. A probable explanation for this extraordinary jump is America's policy on drugs.

Media stories about the evils of drug abuse led to the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. Apparently, the pressure to do something about the problem was so great, that it was enacted hurriedly without benefit of committee hearings.

Nearly one in four inmates is now serving time for some kind of drug offence, meaning that the number of incarcerated drug offenders in 2001 will be roughly equivalent to the entire inmate population of 1980. More disturbing, even though the drug usage rate for young blacks and whites is about the same, blacks are far more likely to go to prison than whites. Blacks account for 13 per cent of those who use illegal drugs but 74 per cent of those sentenced to prison for possession.

This discrimination means that more than one in ten black males in their 20s and early 30s are now locked up. During the 1990s, in Texas, if you counted the number on parole and probation as well as those incarcerated, one in three young black men was under some form of criminal justice control. In other cities like Washington, DC, and Baltimore, half or more were.

In all but four states, prisoners who have been convicted of felonies lose the right to vote in 12 states, a felony can result in life-long disenfranchisement. As a result of these rules there are states, particularly in the South, where a quarter of the black male population is permanently disenfranchised – they have lost, forever, the right to vote.

After watching the movie *Traffic*, I left the theatre with the impression that it was a whitewash. 2001 will see further progress towards a time when a third of that nation's black males are not allowed to vote. What remains to be told to the general public is a story about how the ruling class, with the help of the news media and the entertainment industry, was able to pursue a policy of racial persecution for the last two decades. Of course, democratic rights are less important to a ruling elite that is moving toward dictatorship.

LETTERS CONTINUED

least difference. Have you ever gone to a meeting and realized that nothing you could have said or done would have made any difference?

Peter Verin

Correspondence with Jack Falk
It has come to my attention, through conversation with students, as well as through *the Martlet*, that the University is taking an aggressive stance on the removal Mr. Peter Verin.

The purpose of this email is to make apparent my disgust and dislike for the way Mr. Verin has been treated. The University is supposed to be a free and open society where all people should be accepted. The treatment of Peter Verin is yet another example of covering up something that comes off as being an embarrassment to the University.

Many people fail to realize the intellectual mind of Mr. Verin. Just the other day I spoke with him about politics and the student elections. In short, he offered me some profound advice regarding my personal political campaign on campus. During my conversation with him, no fewer than five people passed by who knew Peter and stopped to talk with him. Not one person had anything bad to say about the man.

So why is he getting the boot from campus? After 21 years this interesting, friendly man is getting swept under the proverbial rug, and for what reason? I equate it to a simple mindset. There are people in a position of power who do no like him, perhaps only for superficial reasons: he looks bad, therefore we all benefit from his removal.

Well, simple utilitarianism just can't work here. We are talking about a living, breathing, conscious human. He is a person with feelings and thoughts. We cannot boot him off campus simply because we believe it to benefit everyone on campus. The outcome of such treatment would result in disgust from many groups, including myself. What is good for some people is not necessarily good for everyone else, and this must be remembered.

In conclusion, I just want to announce my personal dislike for the treatment of Peter Verin. He has received inhumane treatment from Campus Security, Administration, and the Police Department. These circumstances must stop immediately.

Geordie Clarke

Falk's response
Thank you for your recent e-mail regarding Peter Verin's status on campus.

I understand that Mr. Verin has been frequenting the UVic campus for more than 20 years and appreciate that over that time many members of the University community have come to know him.

In recent years, both Facilities Management and Campus Security Services have received an increasing number of complaints about Mr. Verin and the piles of materials that he has stored in various campus locations both inside and outside of buildings. I am informed that, on several occasions, these materials have included rotting food which has attracted rats and mice. In addition, the piles of material have soiled floors and carpets, requiring that they be cleaned. Classrooms that have been used for such storage need to be thoroughly ventilated prior to any further use. Much of the material that Mr. Verin accumulates seems to have been brought to campus from other locations.

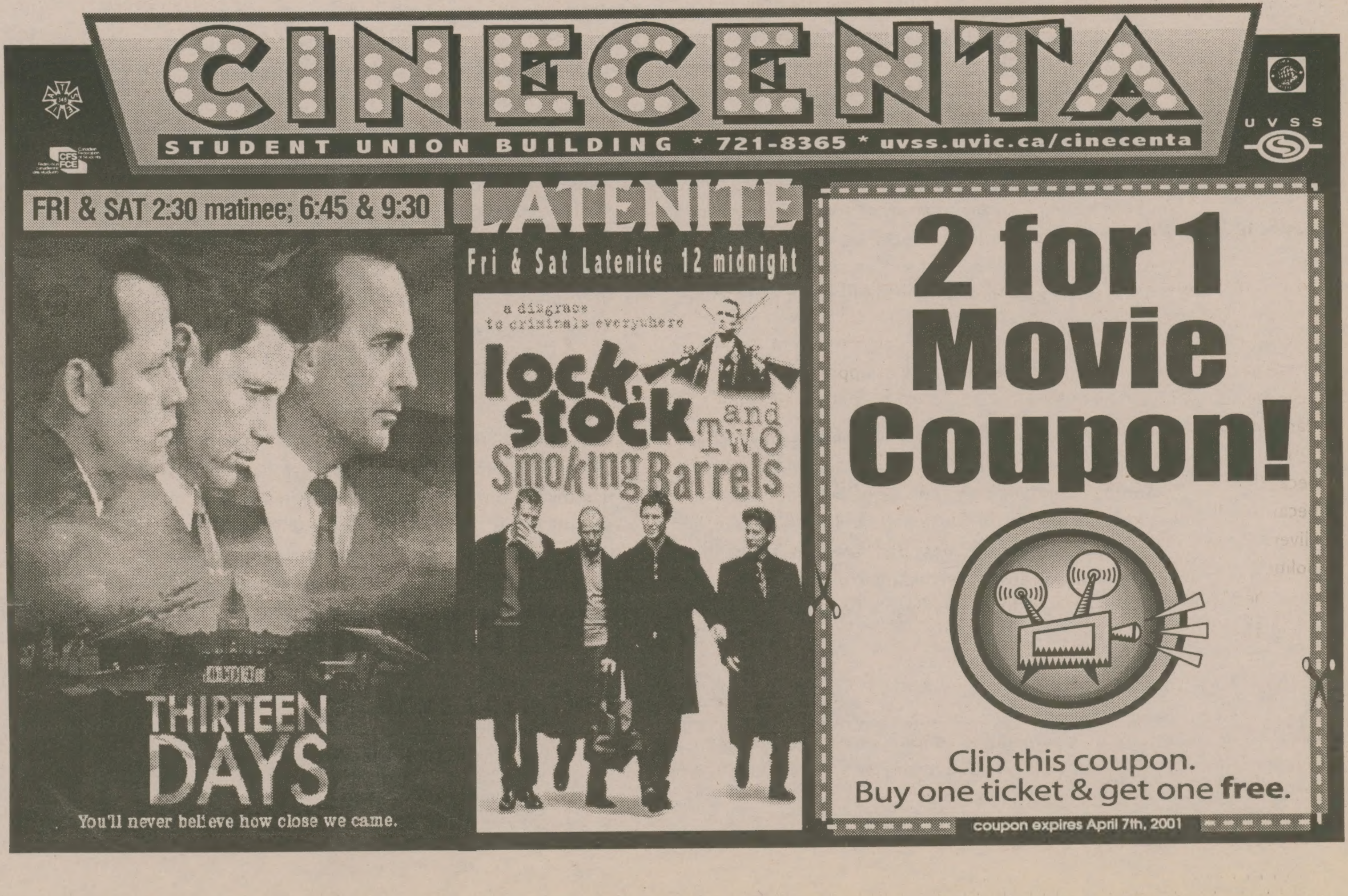
The complaints have also involved disruption of classes. Most recently, a professor complained of repeatedly – over a two-month period – finding Mr. Verin apparently "camped out" with his collection of materials in a classroom where she was scheduled to teach. On two occasions, she had to call Campus Security to remove Mr. Verin, and the room had to be aired out before class could be held. On one occasion the class had to be moved to another location when officers were not immediately available.

The University has, on numerous occasions, contacted Mr. Verin about its concerns. Following the recent complaints, Mr. Verin ignored several requests to remove his materials from the Clearihue Building and courtyard. The University eventually had to have them removed.

University staff have spent a great deal of time attempting to resolve these issues in other ways, with no success. The decision to restrict Mr. Verin's access to campus buildings was taken only after these attempts to deal with the issues of class disruption and unsanitary conditions had failed. Thank you for sharing your views with me. I hope I have been able to provide you with some insight into why the University has taken action in this matter.

This is *our* university
I am writing this because I am deeply concerned about the current issues surrounding Peter Verin. We all know who Peter is and what is going on, but my question is why are we letting it go on? Sadly, if any of you are not

letters continue on p. 19



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W cal

Illustration by Christina Harris

by Sharmeen Khan

March is a busy time for oppressed people. There's International Women's Day and the United Nations day for the Elimination of Racism. As a woman of colour, it is a time to speak and write about all the various issues surrounding racism, gender, class and other 'isms'. I have written so much about racism that I am a little tired of sounding like a broken record.

And here I am again – asked to write something for *the Martlet's* issue on racism and anti-racism. A part of me is very cynical of special issues, or token speakers at rallies that allow people to pat themselves on the back for being anti-rascist. I don't have one day to fight racism, I live with it everyday.

Which is why I want to begin by stating that fighting racism should be an ongoing practice for all of us. I want to keep the discussion going throughout the year. I am not talking about quotas or special issues; I am talking about having a strong analysis of seeing things through an anti-colonial, anti-racist perspective. White people should also be talking and writing about racism – about white privilege and dominant white culture and white supremacy.

•••

I am a hyphenated Canadian. Depending on which is comfortable or accepted, I am a Pakistani-Canadian, South-Asian-Canadian, Indo-Canadian, East Indian-Canadian and so on. I was born and grew up here, and have adopted, for the most part, Western culture, but "Canadian" is always secondary to what my skin colour displays. There has never been a period of my life when I could get away from it, encompass the diversity or multiculturalism that Canada talks about all the time.

Strangers continually invade my space and privacy and ask where I am from. I am expected to be the expert on "brown issues" such as genital mutilation, wife burning, child labour – when really, I know a lot more about issues from Canada.

It is not until recently that I have stopped identifying as a Canadian and have started identifying myself as a Paki. A little background on the word – it is a derogatory name for South Asian people in the West and Europe. You don't have be specifically from Pakistan to be blessed with such a term. It is often used with contempt and anger to include all those South Asian immigrants stinking up the country with curry and working shit jobs that Canadians would love to do.

Canadians nowadays like to think that everyone is beyond those terms. I have to say that I haven't been called a 'Paki' for some time, but people continually treat me like one. I have grown up as a Paki – faced with hatred, contempt, suspicion or exoticization. People treat me like a cultural specimen to be gawked at, or cooed at, or tokenized – using me to represent an anti-racist atmosphere that does not exist.

•••

I am proud of the perspective I give as a woman of colour. I am proud of my family's history, of my history and my life. Sometimes I can celebrate my skin colour and my family's culture. But this reality has been a long journey, and I still have a lot of work to do. I have a lot of racialized self hatred towards myself because of how I consistently stand out.

For most of my childhood and teenage years, I wanted nothing more than to be white. All the people I admired, the history I learned, my role models and those I felt were talented were all white. It was beautiful to be white. At the age of eight, I began to drink two full glasses of squeezed lemon juice a day in hopes of whitening my skin. I would memorize the Lord's Prayer with such fervor and passion that even Stockwell Day would be impressed. This self-hatred extended towards myself, my family's religion and culture. And sometimes to this day, I still tell myself to stay out of the sun to prevent any further darkness than necessary.

This self-hatred manifested in activism. When you wake up feeling sick or bad, trying to be someone you're not, when you see who has what kind of jobs in this country, or when you realize that your path in life can be determined by your skin colour, not by your own effort, it doesn't take long to rage against white supremacy. White supremacy is ever-present in the kind of history we learn, the kind of media we watch, the ideals of beauty or intelligence.

But when people expect me to speak up at certain events about racism, there doesn't seem too much tolerance when I actually want to deconstruct white privilege on an everyday basis.

Through my university education, I have become obsessed with race. You can expect me to pipe up in class wondering about the colonial implications about a comment or standpoint. I can hear people groaning as I talk about how racism has been used to divide working people, how the Western gaze in politics is a form of colonialism, how even finding my voice is uncomfortable.

Racism hasn't ended with history. Post-colonialism does not exist. Our entire lives are founded on racism

ho ya
ling a Paki?

I will always be a Paki. I want to be a normal person walking the streets, meeting up with friends, not having to situate myself every second of my life. I realize that since people don't perceive me as Canadian, I am rendered homeless.

and colonialism. We all live it every day. But it is lonely to be the only coloured woman in class to pipe up and remind people about privilege. It is tiring being accused of being biased, when white priveledge in its everyday invisibility is a bias. I feel like I'm the Paki who is always playing the race card.

...

My identity flips back and forth all the time. I am a Canadian with a particular viewpoint. When people ask where I am from, I smile and reply sweetly, "Regina, Saskatchewan." (which could be a different country in and of itself). But when assumptions are made about Islam or genital mutilation that enforce the same old stereotypes that feed hatred, I then situate myself as a Muslim from a Pakistani background.

For a long time, I felt that I had to choose between the two identities. There was no flow, no in between space. It was not until recently that I realized I live the two identities simultaneously. That I encompass these two perspectives because I have had the honour to grow up in a different location.

Sometimes I can relax a bit and not fight the two demons in my head. Other times I feel it would be more worthwhile to actually leave Canada and carve out a different space where my skin colour is the norm. Where I don't stick out as much and I am neither ugly nor exoticized – I can be myself.

This is the kind of pain I feel to this day. I can understand systemic racism, and all the other big words used to talk about racism. But on a personal level, I am in a double bind. I have a Western gaze, but that Western gaze is always upon me. I will always be a Paki. Someone to be yelled at on the street, someone who is expected to teach people about the evils of racism, someone who is expected to represent all women of colour, someone who is either ugly because she is not white or someone exoticized because people have seen too many Indian musicals.

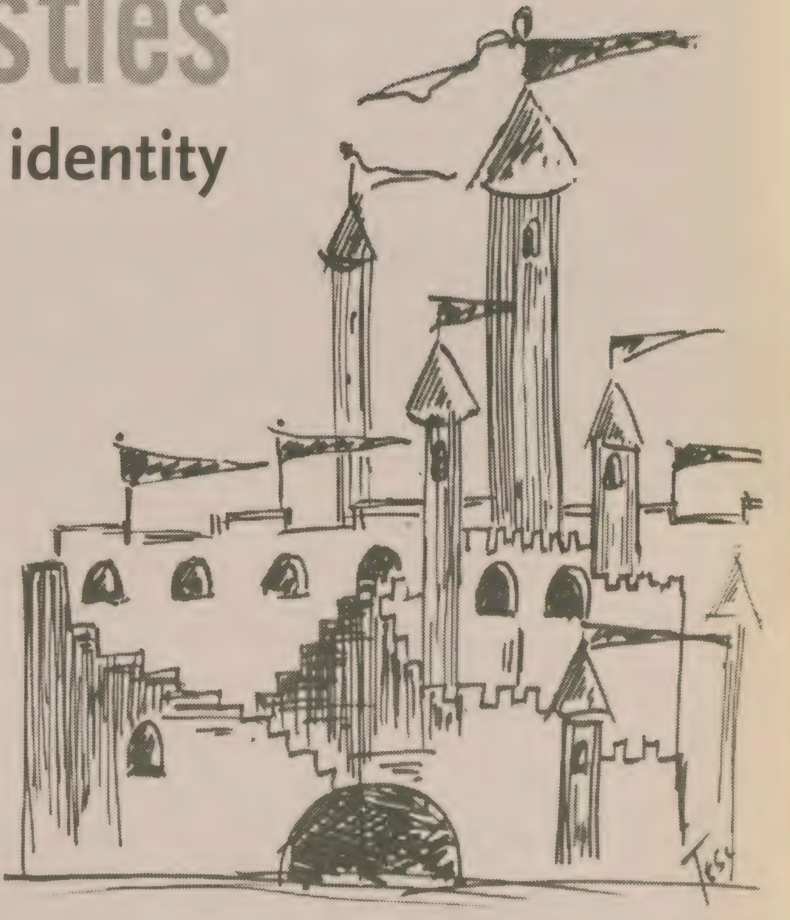
I want to be a normal person walking the streets, meeting up with friends, not having to situate myself every second of my life. I realize that since people don't perceive me as Canadian, I am rendered homeless. I don't belong anywhere.

I am tired of playing the token woman of colour. People have seen my name over and over beside issues of racism. I know a lot more than specific "woman of colour" issues, but other forms of knowledge that make me a holistic woman are never given the equal amount of space. I do not represent all woman of colour. In fact, that term makes my stomach flip over, because once again, it compares woman who aren't white to those who are. What is a woman of colour? How are we one group as compared to the rest of womankind? This makes no sense to me.

But I still do this kind of work even when I recognize the problems because I am hopeful. I feel it is important to engage the problems and to be part of the dialogue. I don't want to be tokenized, but I also don't want to feel excluded from the conversation. I do have something to offer and want to be part of this conversation. That is why I write, speak out, demonstrate, lobby and make a big ruckus everywhere I go. I want our voices and our ideas to be part of the norm.

Building racial sandcastles

Defining the language of identity



by Jessica Gin-Jade Chan

At kindergarten in Singapore, we were tyrannized by strict disciplinarians who governed our dress and behaviour. Skirts had to be four fingers below the knee, Chinese girls had to help the teacher clean the blackboard, and Malay boys had to take out the classroom garbage. These rules defined our classroom responsibilities as well as our racial roles. It wasn't as if these racial definitions were printed in the school rule book.

The teachers doled out responsibilities, instinctively deciding which students were best suited for a year of breathing chalk dust, and who would benefit with a walk to the school dumpster. Somehow, their instincts always drew a defining line between the two main racial groups in the school.

Their decisions set the determining factor for sandpit politics. The playground language was English, but the opposing factions plotted their exploits in Chinese and Malay. In our sandpit, the division line was between garbage dumpers and chalk eaters. The taboo was not for a boy to play with Barbie, but for a chalk eater to play with a smelly dumper (except to throw sand in their eyes).

I never threw sand. I wasn't a goody-two shoes, but I never touched sand. In theory I belonged to the chalk eaters – I was after all, Chinese. I couldn't speak the language, but I certainly looked it.

In practice, I fought with teachers for the permission to stay indoors to draw pictures, away from the sand and noise. With hindsight, I wonder why these teachers would not let a sulky little girl doodle with crayons and paper quietly. What could be so important for a child of five to learn, crying amid sand and tooth bites?

I learned the language of identity from defending my arms against grainy bites in the school sand pit. As an immigrant from Canada, I was natural bait. There was no means for me to understand their battle plans because I did not speak Chinese or Malay. Better still, all the English I rattled off was contaminated with so thick an accent that culprits who were caught bullying me got off on a simple, "Cher, I dun understand what she say."

> Unfortunately for me, the Canadian accent consists of more than just the standard "eh."

I was sent to the school nurse and told to learn to speak properly. After two years of swallowing sand granules, I buckled down and stopped saying "eh" at the end of my English sentences.

Fixing my speech endings did not mark the end to my problems of assimilation. Unfortunately for me, the Canadian accent consists of more than just the standard "eh." Try as I might, I could not change my enunciation to fit the Singporean nasal accent. It wasn't just about getting rid of my Canadian accent either. I had to remember to tack "lah" and "aiyah" in place of "eh" at sentence endings and never forget to put an exclamation point after each "aiyah."

As well, there were the definitions of slang. "Goondo" referred to a person who always blundered, but I had to remember not to use that term to refer to someone who never used his brains. "Swa-kuh" meant someone who was ignorant, and could not be used in an exclamation like, "Aiyah, so Swa-kuh lah! You so never use your brain lah!" Such a sentence was nonsense. The people being insulted weren't necessarily lazy with their brains – they simply did not expose themselves to enough experiences. Also, I used "lah" twice in one exclamation, which was one time too many.

I was trying too hard. It wasn't because there were all these set rules – it was because I was a foreigner. I tried to fit in based on my Chinese parentage. It didn't matter that my parents were doing their best to bring me up according to Singapore standards and amongst Singapore children. If anything, being told to assimilate made me feel even more different from everyone else.

I kept trying, but feelings of triumph about my success always ebbed when I opened my mouth to speak a few words of English to locals. "Wah, your English so powderful. You not local issit?" was a comment I often received when I forgot to pepper my language with "lahs" and "aiyahs."

"Actually, my English no so good lah," I always hasten to say in my best Singlish. The person I was speaking to would give me a delighted grin: I had tried to come off my foreign perch to be Singaporean like them. For my efforts, I received the grins and pleased smiles. Ten points for Jes. I was an indulgent novelty.

My English received praise not because my language skills were necessarily good, but because I sounded vaguely like the American actors that screened in hip movie theatres around town. It didn't really matter that I wasn't American. I just didn't sound Singaporean.

Twelve years of Singlish lessons later, I stepped off my plane in Victoria, still speaking my English of no "lahs," "aiyahs" or even "ehs." The first greeting I received on Canadian soil was, "Wow, you speak English very well. Where are you from?"

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ARTS RANT

Flesh on the dance floor

Artists on culture and discrimination

Blurring racial boundaries with paint

I can't talk about colour without talking about race. It's inherent, colour = race in Victoria, we're such a white town that anything a shade more colourful draws the boundaries of race. Racial issues here are like canvas art – everything's pure until you drip paint on the white surface, the perimeters of that paint dribble become the boundaries of race and define the "us" and "other."

The thing with Victoria, these dribbles of colour start out being largely different in shades and textures, but get all mixed up because they do upon interaction with other paints. I see Victoria as a canvas with a lot of blank areas, while other segments are filled with these dribbles of paint that were originally many colours, but have become vast stretches of grey. These grey patches are only so obviously grey because they are not white. The racial boundary here is not any drawn line, but the difference between the two colours.

I try to blur these boundaries with my paintings. I'm not a literal painter, I believe more in the process. I used to sketch out shapes with soft charcoal before I painted over the drawings. Now I don't think layers of other colours will paint over the cultural differences that we mark out initially, so I have stopped rooting out the individual areas I will colour. I just paint, and let the colours do the job. I rub the edges and soften the distinct lines.

Painting's really about harmony, and I think the process through which I achieve this harmony can be applied to racial discrimination. Just blur the edges and soften the corners, assimilate each other instead of drawing out the sharp differences. Yellow will be yellow, brown will be brown, white is white; I think we worry too much about maintaining the purity of colour strains and forget that these colours are the *product of other colours.*

Kevin McAllery

Generalizing music genres

Music should be a niche where everyone finds a home, because what place should be more accepting than lyrical songs, harmony? If there's such a place, it isn't in music. Harmony within discord doesn't come about when listeners aren't educated to cultivate a fine ear for identifying sadronic lyrics, or to appreciate irony in lyrics. Does anyone actually think black people meant it when they rap "niggers wanna die?"

The audience today is doubly ignorant of the origins of their favourite music because people are surrounded by a greater variety of music choice. So the majority of great jazz and gospel singers are black. So black rap has reached successful heights in the top 40s industry. That doesn't mean all black artists are great musicians! We should be more discerning with praise. Just because to praise is one's intent doesn't mean that one should be less cautious in generalizing music genres.

Melissa Blake

Fashion is cultural slander

Modern fashion is either cultural slander or a provocative look into a futurist's idealized world of racial harmony. If patches of culture are willing to endure their role as trimmings on shoulders and hemlines, fashion may be the next wave for racial harmony.

I'm disturbed when I see bits and pieces from a culture tacked on to t-shirts, hand-bags and even underwear? Where does tradition go when Chinese culture becomes bits of brocade lining a jean skirt? Trimmings do not reflect the hours weavers spent on their looms, layering silk threads to create intricate patterns of dragons and flowers that are the emblem of good luck in a people's belief.

I do not see the appreciation of Punjabi culture when Indian garb is appropriated as trendy modern wear. In a society where clothing is cast off and recycled every season, ethic clothing designed for the sake of setting trends cannot be more than mere props for consumer culture.

An-Mei Long

Writing with racial integrity

I always envied writers until I became *one. I thought the world of writing* was a place of power, somewhere people would have to listen to the author, somewhere expression would be held scared. Writers who touched on subjects of racism and cutural assimilation were my greatest source of envy because they had the space they created on the blank page to tell the world about their experiences with racial injustices. I read writers like Evelyn Lau, Lee Maracle and Eden Robinson because their stories relayed experiences that I identified with, that I wanted to write about. I admired them because I felt they were doing their bit to change societal mindsets.

Back then, I didn't realize that with power comes the need to have integrity. In becoming a writer, I learnt that I need to respect the language of discrimination. I can write about racial discrimination, but I cannot rant about racial injustice because that would do little to advance racial harmony. In writing about racial discrimination, I feel a writer needs to distance herself from the situation. This means, that while as a reader, I can allow myself to ride full tide with the emotions of the writer, but as a writer, I need to distance myself from the situation in order to gain perspective. The act of distancing myself has been a learning process for me. As a writer, my job is to document racial issues, not to participate in them. I do this to ensure I maintain the integrity on my authorial status. As a writer, I have to ensure that the copy I churn out does not serve to be a microphone to propagate racial problems but addresses racial problems with insight and depth of perspective.

Donnalisa

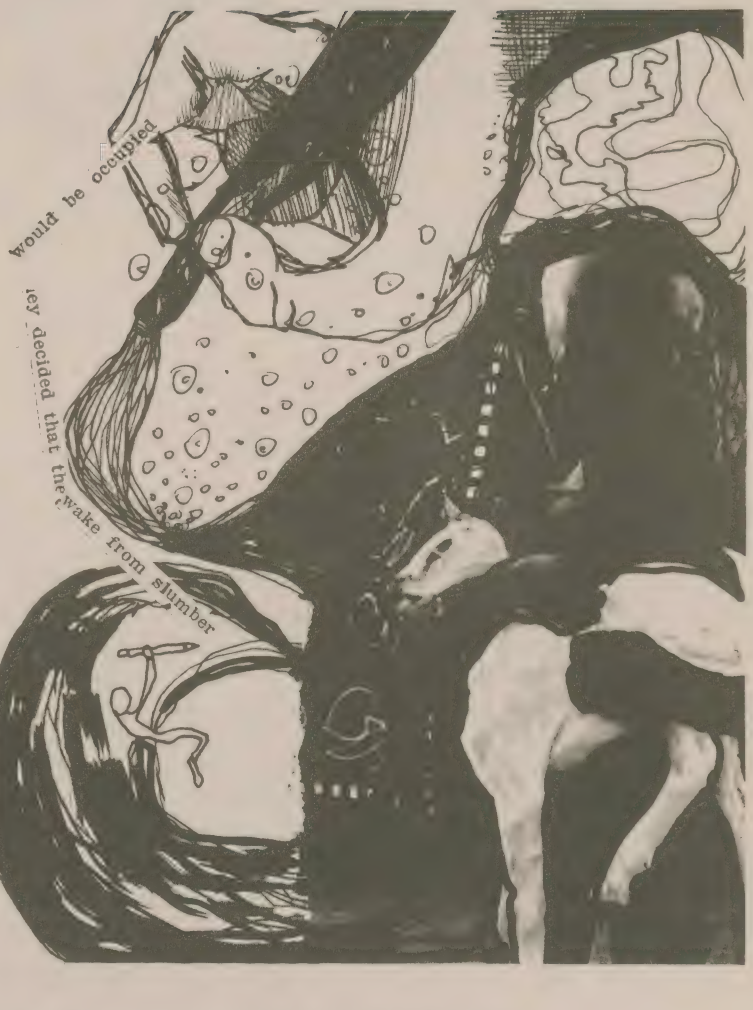
Wary with words

Over the past three years, I have been careful about generating artistic content that might generalize or marginalize racial groups. As a Canadian-born Korean, I understand how disappointing and even annoying it can be when someone vaguely clasifies you as "Asian," hereby lumping your culture in with a while multitude of what they percieve as being "Asian:" straight dark hair, yellow skin. I have been classified as Chinese, greeted in Japanese and Vietnamese, all because the other party could not be bothered to speak to me on the terms of my culture.

This experience has left a deep impression in my work as a poet and writer. As a writer, I recognize that my words will be read by readers who might take my word for the absolute truth because they read my works with their trust. In acknowledging this, I try to be careful when I describe another country in my writings just because I know how disrespectful it is to hear a foreigner's generalization of the culture you love. How can a foreigner on a two-week visa learn enough to criticize a country with full knowledege of the implications of his words? I am willing to grant a native the credibility because I believe he will critique his country out of love. However, when a foreigner does the same, I see it as a sign of disrespect.

When I write about foreign cultures, I have learnt that masking generalisations under the guise of praise does not mean the writer is not ignorant and disrespectful of the culture. In praising a country's culture, I am wary of turning one positive detail such as "I love Korean Kim-Chi, all Koreans make such good Kim-Chi!" into a gross generalization. I think too few people recognize that racial miseducation often results because of writers overlook the greater significance of their comments.

Lianna Lee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Lianna Lee, Canadian-born Korean writer

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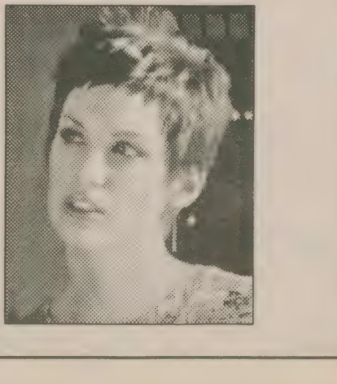

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Back with *the Study*

Veda Hille returns to Victoria to release her album at the Belfry

by Kris Elder

Picture this: Veda Hille and a Baldwin grand piano on stage at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre. Picture Hille in her element, her hands stirring up passion on the piano keys, undiluted and raw. Behind her a large screen flaunts colourful video footage from the natural world to accompany the music.

The show, which I saw last December, is a hint of what's in store for Victoria next month. Her solo show at the Belfry on April 8 will feature songs from her new album *Field Study*, based on her experiences in the wild.

Hille had the opportunity this summer, as part of a Yukon Arts Centre initiative with funding from Canada Council for the Arts and the Yukon Government, to travel up north with 11 other artists in search of inspiration.

The three-week trip included going as far north as Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik, driving the Dempster highway, being helicoptered in for a three-day camping trip in the Tombstone Mountains, going to the Dawson City music festival, rafting on the Alsek River, and visiting the Lowell Glacier.

After the trip, the artists were commissioned to produce new work based on their travels, in any genre they wish."We have absolute freedom to do whatever we want, and if they like it, they'll bring the work up north," says Hille.

Hille started work on *Field Study* last year after she admitted to a friend that the new songs she was supposed to be writing did not exist.

"He said 'Write about what amazes you,' and I remembered my kid days as a closet scientist. I went home and started a haphazard course of research and writing for an album of songs about science and nature," says Hille.

Hille says that her new album *Field Study* is a collection of observations and remarks about the interior and exterior landscapes of her last year.

"I am proud of these songs and the way that they observe the outside world, as opposed to the inner life that I have been obsessed with in previous work," says Hille.

According to Hille, writing songs about nature was not too far from the vein she was in, as she was already working on songs about the natural world and is influenced by the world around her, living in Canada.

photo by Tathra Street

It's essential, there's nothing else I'd rather be doing. This is the best form of communication for me

Veda Hille, musician

During her concert, Hille sang about birds and plants, snowfall and trees, volcanoes and survival. Behind her the video screen showed archival footage and natural scenes from up north produced by Sean Chappelle, a video artist with whom Hille attended art school. The visual imagery complemented the music – the way light and clouds reflect on water, the stark branches of a blue-purple conifer, a languid river moving slowly across the screen.

Her new song "Revolver" about a mountain "forged in the fire of the earth's hot core when I was young" was accompanied by video footage of a mountain spinning with light and colour, and thrusting through the clouds into the wide sky.

Gentle interludes of higher notes relieved the tension of the low pounding of Hille's piano.

Hille had the audience hold off from applause until the very end of the show, which allowed for a delicious tension to build in the hall and a sense of unbroken reverie for appreciating the music. As she struck the keys in such a way as to create a series of thuds that reverberated throughout the theatre, the piano became something else, a percussive giant in her capable hands.

She also played some songs from her albums *Spine* and *You Are Not In This World Alone*. The gentleness of "All Fur," about really good sex, was accompanied by visuals of a slow-moving boat and reflected beams of light through cloud. "Six Feet of Silence" featured a cabin in a vast snowy expanse near Hudson's Bay. Archival footage of dancing girls accompanied a song about working women up north who exchanged company and sex for money.

Hille sang about how these women in the early days of prostitution during the goldrush could buy a "bathtub full of wine" with their gold.

Hille's passion infused her solo show. She describes her music as "an absolutely essential part of myself." It's evident talking to her that she finds it deeply satisfying.

"It's essential, there's nothing else I'd rather be doing. This is the best form of communication for me."

Christine Fellows, whose debut recording is called *2 little birds*, will open for Veda Hille. Tickets are $17 and $14 and are available at the Belfry Arts Centre Box Office, 1291 Gladstone Ave in Fernwood. Info & tickets: 385-6815.

ARTS

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CD REVIEW

The prop of Propagandhi

PROPAGANDHI

Propagandhi
Today's Empires, Tomorrow's Ashes

by Mark Samcoe

"Politics begins in the home." I've heard this aphorism as many times as the word "fuck" has appeared on each of Propagandhi's records. That includes *Today's Empires, Tomorrow's Ashes*, the third full-length album from the Winnipeg hardcore punk trio.

My personal politics began ugly and impressionable. They sprouted curled hairs, wore hand-me-downs and rocked out in many houses and dorms, which I fondly and bitterly called home.

In my present urbane flat, *Today's Empires, Tomorrow's Ashes* fits in like a wise, enkindling third-year roommate, cognizant of its cocky, ambitious *How to Clean Everything* freshman years, and its aggro-preachy *Less Talk, More Rock* sophomore days.

The prop of Propagandhi is their understanding of activism and mnemonics. Dedicated to "lives lived in margins, locked in prisons, and lost on the gallows," they're a Fat Wreck Chords band with a cubed voice directed at everybody.

They aren't people handing out flyers and participating in walkouts. They don't cling to outdated, ineffective political gestures as if they were a pair of platform shoes, worshipped for their stylish high rhetoric, ignored for their blistering and ankle rolling truth. Remember, disco sucks except on retro night. Hardcore rips all day, every day.

Remember, disco sucks except on retro night. Hardcore rips all day, every day.

I listened to this record all over my home. In the living room, concurrently kicking my binder off the coffee table, listening hard for the words amid the thrash. In the kitchen, washing American-flag-red stripes of Herbed Wine and Tomato Ragu from pots and plates. In the bathroom, washing the day from my face to the sounds of factory workers beating a pig in the opening of "Purina Hall of Fame."

And finally in the bedroom, taboo-like, kept awake by the the fence-crashing of sheep loosed in the yard.

There are songs on the album about everything from East Timor and bullshit politicians to religious posturing and "ordinary people [who] do fucked-up things when fucked-up things become ordinary." It's not Country Joe and the Fish, so don't expect honky vocals and folk guitars. Imagine a tickle of Weakerthans affectation in the throaty jawing of I Spy.

It's intimidating to review a Propagandhi record. All at once I feel like they're too esoteric and I'm too ignorant. I feel like the lyrics "[living] vicariously through tortured-artist college-rock... stick me on a ten-speed. Back to the Motor League," are directed at me, my Weezer records, and the pink Nishiki in my living room. But this record is my vehicle and I'm not fucking off to any league.

So, after a week of listening to Shit C. Face (Chris), Ass J. Hole (Jord), and Fuck T. Nose (Todd the Rod) I think I'm closing the distance I've assumed. Knowing these songs and what they mean, watching and reading the cd-rom documentary films and essays on America's foreign policy, and persecution of the Black Panthers repeats their own chorusing aphorism, "Knowledge is Power, Arm Yourself."

With these songs in my head, I've got some intellectual might. I've never thrown a punch, and I don't really want to – unless of course it's metaphorical. Like Propagandhi, I think we're all worth saving – by knockout if necessary.

Escaping from brand-name jail

Finding a patch of individuality

by Kevin Groves

Some months back I was sitting down with my friend Mike during a break from UVic Orientation, and the topic of clothing came up.

"Has anyone ever told you, Kevin, that you dress like a 70's porn star?"

I was shocked. Perhaps, it was the two cups of coffee and a rough day of work that brought out the controversy in him, but I quickly recovered.

We agreed to an experiment. The next day, I showed up in the drabbest clothes I could find in the very back recesses of my closet – a most perilous venture, not for the faint of heart – and gave him the most flamboyant polyester shirt I owned.

The effect was instantaneous: where before had stood a mild-mannered English student, there was now an explosion of colour, like the inevitable splatter-effect movie robbers experience when they remove the wad of money (that's really a dye bomb) from the bank.

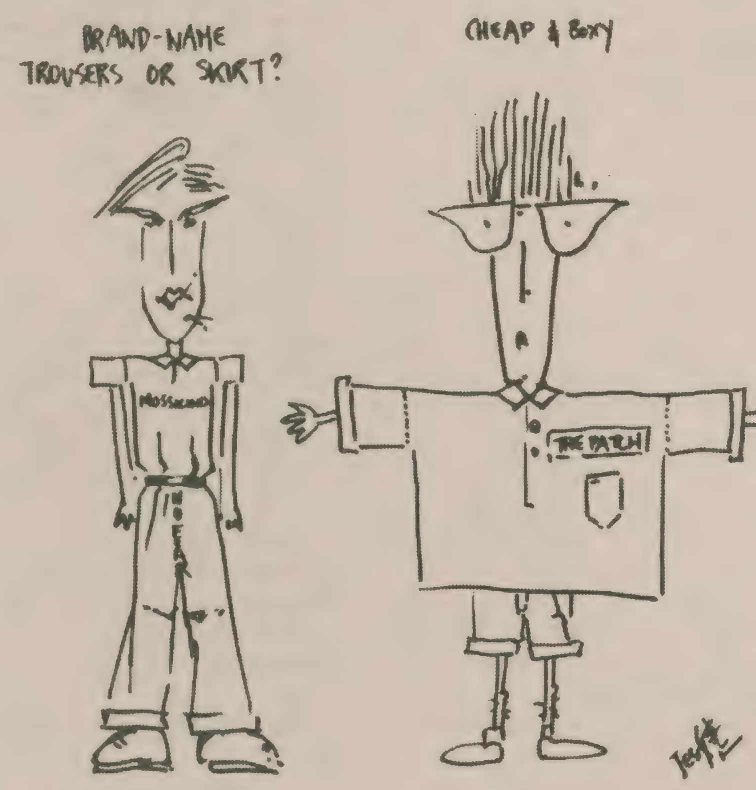
We walked back to the McPherson library to do some more campus tours, and people were quick to sit up and take notice.

"Wow, Mike, that's quite the shirt you're wearing today, is it alright if I touch it?"

Suddenly my erstwhile critic had little to say as the compliments poured in.

But this is not the reason that I wear polyester clothing, though I won't lie and say that the compliments do not make me dissatisfied.

A couple of years ago when I still lived in the Okanagan, I was one of those high school students who suffered from the triple whammy of geekdom: I was skinny, intelligent and subject to the unfortunate belief that reading fantasy novels instead of knocking back beers, knocking up girls, and knocking down anyone who looked at me funny was somehow a much better way to pass the time.



To minimize my beatings, I did what every member of the trodden does in high school at one point or another: I conformed.

You could imagine the result. The cramped space of a locker is definitely no place for a human body (even a skinny one). In such a space, no one can hear you scream.

To minimize my beatings, I did what every member of the trodden does in high school at one point or another: I conformed. Overnight I persuaded mummy to buy me Stussy, No Fear, and Mossimo shirts, and I laced up my uncomfortable Doc Martens just to show that I could be 'cool' too.

I was like a soldier donning the unofficial uniform, vying for respect from a legion of other kids who wore the same logos proudly on their chests, or at least the inconspicuousness to be left alone. Cookie cutter kids, going to cookie cutter classes.

For the most part I was successful, but I could never shake a fleeting sense of guilt as I tried to make my way through high school with as little human contact as possible.

It was not until I first arrived at UVic back in 1997 that I began to break out of my self-imposed sentence to the brand-name jail. I looked around the campus, saw people walking around in just about every type of clothing imaginable, and began to realize that people here were old enough not to care anymore about how I dressed.

The feeling of release was overwhelming. Like attaining enlightenment, I quickly began raiding every thrift store I could find. Retro clothing happily made its way into my closet, and the transition from brand names to super pimp, though gradual, was my labour of love.

Now, a couple of years later, I feel like I've reached individuality. Polyester might not be the most comfortable material on Earth (for one thing it doesn't breathe at all, ever been in 101 degree heat with a polyester shirt?), but it is certainly distinctive.

In a world where those irritating GAP commercials continue to draw more people into their stores, I can claim some individuality, through polyester shirts, velvet jackets, and glorious loafers (there's a reason why the camera pans on John Travolta's feet for a long time at the beginning of *Saturday Night Fever*: he LIKES how those shoes feel!), all playfully punctuated with a little button on the lapel that says "I dress this way to bother you."

Recently, Mike has been bugging me about my new jacket purchases, like the knee-length jacket I bought from The Patch with a fur collar. He can't seem to make up his mind if I should be labeled a pimp, or an Oscar Wilde wannabe. Spoken like a true English major.

His would-be jibes fall on deaf ears, though. I've done my time in brand name jail, and I'll never look back.

Is electronic music burning itself out?

Too many djs in too many venues is killing local interest in the scene

by David G. Brown

Victoria's electronic music scene is going downhill. While the scene is still flourishing, the market has become super-saturated.

"This city has milked the hell out of the dj scene," says Jason Zimmer, manager of the popular night spot Icehouse. "It's peaked out already and is on a downward spiral."

Electronic music has become a big thing on the Island. Go into any local record store like Whitebird or Boomtown and new rave flyers are posted every week.

Several Victoria clubs feature weekly resident djs: dj Scotty Stylus plays at Lucky Bar every Tuesday night, Brent Carmichael and Luca play at Hush every Wednesday. Some other venues with weekly resident beats are the Drip Café, Hugos, Evolution and Neptune Soundbar.

While Vancouver Island seems to have an endless supply of kick-ass, old-skool and up-and-coming djs, promoters like Whitebird Records also try to get in as many bigger, more famous acts as they can.

Last week was a good example. Drum 'n' Bass guru Dieselboy from Philadelphia dropped some crazy, fast rhythm at Icehouse on Tuesday. Seattle's house and trance dj Donald Glaude was supposed to play with Vancouver's Grooverobber at the same venue on Thursday, but Glaude was a no-show. Regardless, Grooverobber kept the dance floor in a frenzy, effortlessly, until the lights came on at 2 a.m. Then, on Friday, dj Dan spun some hard house and breaks at Sugar.

This city has milked the hell out of the dj scene.

Jason Zimmer, Icehouse manager

Since so many live electronic shows are hosted in Victoria, their allure is wearing off, says Zimmer. If this is the case, clubs like Neptune and Hush might be at risk of losing business.

"It's not a treat anymore," says Zimmer. "[Customers] stop coming out when it's no longer neat or amazing."

As for Icehouse's future, Zimmer says he plans on being as "progressive" as possible. He recognizes the importance of the live music scene in Victoria, but also maintains an older clientele with strippers and shows like "Shania Twain: Jaime Lee as Twain's Twin" on March 27 and "Nearly Neil and the Solitary Band" (Neil Diamond impersonator) which took place last Saturday.

When it comes down to it, Zimmer says, djs "all kinda sound the same." There is always a degree of personal style involved, but the genre lacks widespread diversity. This is another reason he predicts the electronic music scene is going downhill.

Despite this, Zimmer concedes that "there's always going to be an underground scene, and it will be positive. Some people who are hardcore get an adrenaline rush that [the party] could get busted at any moment."

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ATHLETE PROFILE

Clayton Pool: An angel on ice

by Barrie Tanner

EDMONTON (CUP) – Walk into the Golden Bear hockey locker room before any game and you'll see him right away. He'll be the one bouncing a tennis ball against the wall. He'll be the one with the big pads, the fancy mask and a look of concentration on his face. And, on any given night, he'll arguably be the most important player on the ice.

Goaltender Clayton Pool has backstopped the University of Alberta hockey squad to a record-breaking season that has seen the team boast the lowest number of goals against of any team in the conference. Pool played in 22 of the team's 28 regular season bouts, and has set the Canada West record for the most career shutouts at six – and he's only in his second year.

"They say you have to be weird to be a goalie, but I enjoy it," smiles Pool. "And I don't think I'm weird," he quickly adds.

> They say you have to be weird to be a goalie, but I enjoy it. And I don't think I'm weird.
>
> *Clayton Pool*

Pool's passion for hockey started at age five when his father enrolled him and his brother in hockey. His brother is currently in Australia doing missionary work, while Pool has further developed his hockey skills and has become what some consider the best goaltender in Canadian university hockey.

He traces his hockey evolution through Pee Wee (where he went to Provincials and came in third), and Atom (in grade six, his team went to Sweden for a hockey tournament), right up to his present position as starting mesh-man for the Bears.

At 16, Pool moved out of his parents' home in Abbotsford, B.C. to play Junior hockey, followed by three years in the WHL. He played with the Kamloops Blazers for two seasons, followed by the Edmonton/Kootenay Ice for a pair, before being scouted out by Golden Bear head coach Rob Daum for the starting position at Alberta.

The transition to the Bears was not a hard one for Pool: he played on the same teams with several current Bears during his WHL years, including Konrad Brand, Wade Burt and Steve Shrum in Kamloops, and Kris Knoblauch when he was on the Edmonton Ice roster.

"It's always been my dream to play at as high a level as I can," said Pool, who is in his second year of a Physical Education degree.

Pool helped the Bears to last year's National championships and has turned a lot of heads so far this year with this near-perfect performance so far in the post-season: in four games, he has allowed only four goals and has posted two shutouts. He led all conference goaltenders with a 2.12 Goals Against Average and, along with fellow netminders Greg Tooke and Dustin Schwartz, won the Adam Kryczka Memorial Trophy for lowest team GAA.

"All I've done is try to go in and give us a chance to win each night by doing my job keeping the puck out of the net," said Pool, who credits the Bears' outstanding defensive play as one of the major factors in his success. And that has led to the most successful Alberta regular season in recent history.

In what has been recognized as the most intense and trying positions in hockey, Pool has continued to excel.

"As a goalie, the pressure is on you a lot," he explained. "With other positions, if you mess up, there's usually another player to fall back on. As a goalie, if you mess up, the puck is in the net."

And Pool only seems to thrive under that pressure, as demonstrated by his impressive record-breaking season with the Bears.

Pool is also a member of the Alberta chapter of Athletes in Action, a program that promotes faith in God and one that sent several athletes, including Pool, to Russia last Christmas on a dual mission: to play hockey and to promote faith, which appeals to Pool, who comes from a religious background.

"In Russia, we went to orphanages and talked to young hockey players, handing out brochures and bibles," said Pool. "It was a great trip, and a lot of fun."

Pool will be getting married this summer, but first he will try to add another accolade to his successful hockey career as he heads down to Kingston, Ontario this weekend, for the 2000/2001 CIAU National Championships, where he will be aiming for his second consecutive Championship ring.

And there's nothing weird about that.

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Vikes run ends in CIAU quarters

by Jeremy Shragge

For the players and coaching staff of the University of Victoria men's basketball team, the fairy tail 2000-2001 regular season and conference playoffs are ones to be remembered. Unfortunately, the same thing cannot rightly be said of the CIAU Championships held last weekend in Halifax.

After defeating the highly touted University of Alberta Golden Bears for first place in the conference on the last day of the regular season, and then repeating the feat in the Canada West final three weeks later, the Vikes were believed by many to have a legitimate – albeit outside – shot at the national title.

Those hopes were dashed on Friday afternoon, when the Ontario Champion Western Mustangs summarily eliminated Victoria from the tournament 77-64.

Despite strong zone defence in the first half and a five point lead midway through the third quarter, the Vikes were simply unable to stop the determined Mustangs. UWO forward Andy Kwiatkowski, also a Second Team All-Canadian, was the player of the match, scoring 24 points and grabbing an outstanding 17 boards.

Reduced to playing in the so-called "consolation round" for pride and little else, Victoria was sent up against the number six seeded Saint Mary's University Huskies on Saturday. Runners-up in the Atlantic conference and one of two wild card squads invited to the competition, the Huskies had been defeated the previous day by the Great Plains champion Brandon Bobcats, 65-57.

With their amazing run of successes so quickly and devastatingly shattered, and with the home town crowd firmly behind the Halifax based Huskies, the Vikes suffered a savage mauling, their bloodiest of the season, going down 90-58.

Saint Mary's shot a blistering 59.4 per cent from the field and 57.1 per cent from downtown in the first half; they would eventually hit 11 of 22 from beyond the three-point line. The Huskies' Gabriel Gorgee led all scorers with 26 points while rookie point guard Chris Trumpy paced the Vikes with 16.

In a repeat of last year's championship match, Sunday's final saw the St. Francis Xavier X-Men defeat Brandon 83-76 in overtime. X-Men guard Randy Nohr received the nod as tournament MVP.

A St. Patrick's day wish list

by Iain McLetchie

Dear St. Paddy,

Because you're the closest thing to Santa at this time of year, I thought I'd drop you a wee note. I'm sorry it didn't get to you before your special day, but that's kind of the way it goes with Canada Post.

I really hope you enjoyed all the good *craic* on the weekend. Did you invent green beer, or is that just something new? I'll bet you're sick to death of hearing people say, "When Irish eyes are smiling... " and then trailing off into an incoherent mumble when they realize they have no idea in hell how the rest of it goes.

Hey, I know you Irish lads enjoy your sports, although over there on the 'fair isle' you're more fond of hurling and rugby and football. See, over here, we've got our own sports, like hockey and basketball and baseball and football (gridiron style). They're all pretty cool to play, but lately the professional players have become assholes.

I'm pretty sick of it, and I'm pretty sure that everyone else is, too. I wish things could be different, and I'm not too sure if you can help me, but I was wondering if you'd give it a shot.

I wish Eric Lindros and Michael Peca would forever rot in Hades for deciding not to use their amazing talents, and in the process pissing on the childhood dreams of millions of fans.

I wish that Eric Lindros (if he's not sent directly to Hell), would get the chance to play in the NHL again, only to face Scott Stevens in his first game back.

I wish that TSN, CNNSI, FoxSports, and every other sports channel out there would show nightly highlights of the blue-line rocking which the aforementioned Stevens doled out to said #88.

I wish fans and management would quit disrespecting Frank Thomas and pay him his true worth – two hotdogs and a bowl of sauerkraut. No, wait, make that one hot dog.

I wish A-Rod would use his $252 million contract to brighten the future for thousands of under-privileged kids. And, no, not by seeing him one day make the Hall of Fame; but rather, by establishing a college fund or charity or something like that.

I wish sports writers would quit describing athletes as "misunderstood." They're not; they're millionaire jerks – plain and simple.

I wish Vince Carter would quit his new-found, post-dunk antics and get back to the suave, humble dude he was in the past two seasons. Oh yeah, and that he would re-sign with the Raptors.

I wish the NHL had revenue sharing so we could preserve the game in Canada.

I wish NFL teams would quit underestimating Doug Flutie.

I wish that class acts like Steve Yzerman and David Robinson were childhood heroes, instead of wankers like Allen Iverson and Ray Lewis.

I wish professional sports offered more excitement. March Madness is what sports is all about, and I think that's because it's amateur sport.

I wish curling could be shown more on televison. No, wait, I meant to write "equestrian sports."

I wish professional sports were cheaper. It's shitty that families with children can't afford to go to games, because kids are the best fans.

I wish people would recognize that Mark McGwire is a great guy, and quit going on about him being a juice monkey back in the day.

I wish that we could see Gretzky in his prime just one more time. Pretty please?

I wish that Mario's health holds out for a few more years so that we can continue to admire the grace and talent which he brings to hockey.

You see, St. Paddy, I have lots of wishes, and even more that I wanted to write down. I know you're probably really busy (or just really hung over), but if you could help me out on these, I'd be really grateful. Maybe the Easter Bunny could help you out a bit, seeing as he's not booked up for another couple of weeks.

Thanks a lot,
Iain

P.S. What the hell do you do for the rest of the year?

photo by Richard Warrington

Two members of the Vikes womens' soccer team compete for possesion of the ball in a practice session Tuesday afternoon.

Athletes and artists have more in common than you may think

by Shane Clements

WINNIPEG (CUP) – I am an artist. I also go to the gym about three times a week. I'm no athlete, but I gain a certain satisfaction through knowing that I am giving my body a gift – a gift of (hopefully) a long and healthy life.

I notice that some people come with friends. They run in tandem around the track, chatting, or bob in tandem on stationary trainers, enjoying each other's company, there to see and be seen.

Now, I'm not discrediting these folks – partnership is a tremendous benefit to motivation – but they are not the only ones "working it." In every nook, in every small empty space, is some person who couldn't care less who is there or what others are doing. This person is self-motivated. They are dedicated to the one thing that makes their life worth living – their sport.

As I slave away, I do a lot of thinking. I see a lot of parallels between the artist and the athlete – not so much on the outside, but more internally. Let's see if you agree with me.

For one thing, both artists and athletes are usually pegged at a young age as gifted or talented. Parents are encouraged to provide their children with the proper equipment and instruction to best develop these skills. So there are lessons. Many an after-school play period, when other children are laughing and playing, has been spent practising an instrument or a skill.

I remember as a 12-year-old competitive swimmer, getting to the pool for 7 a.m., swimming for an hour-and-a-half, going to school, then coming back at 4:30 to swim until 7 p.m. This didn't leave much time for the snowball fights and horsing around after school my friends engaged in. I felt left out, but at least I was doing something beneficial to myself. Well, at least my parents thought so.

Another thing athletes have in common with artists is that so many toil in obscurity, waiting for the "big break." There is no big break. The many hours spent religiously practicing a craft or skill must be accepted as motivation in itself – an intrinsic reward.

These things certainly do build character, but the carrot dangled in front of these hardworking youths is often the chance to become a professional artist or athlete, who has beaten the odds and has been handsomely rewarded with riches and fame.

Unfortunately, these people represent only a fraction of those who pour their hearts into their chosen activities. They have managed to stretch their 15 minutes of fame into a career. But as artists and athletes both know, today's superstars can be relegated to the where-are-they-now file in a heartbeat. Remember Tony Tanti? How about Red Grooms? If you can't tell the artist from the athlete, you're not alone.

Few make it to a level they can call financially secure doing what they love to do – many hold down two or more jobs to make available the funds to pursue their goals. Artists and athletes must be among the poorest of talented people in our society. Many rely on shrinking funding from the government to be able to feed themselves and pay rent, if they even qualify.

Add to this the notion of the "natural" – the gifted individual who doesn't seem to have to work as hard as others to get better results. What you see on the court or in the gallery does little to belie the grueling, repetitive practice and incredible work ethic that both artists and athletes must apply to themselves in order to compete.

How many doctors or lawyers would work years for free just for a chance at success, and then only at a living wage? I'd be willing to bet there are very few.

So, all you athletes, next time you see some grungy, tired-looking person struggling to fit a four-by-six-foot canvas on the bus to get it home, remember how much you have in common with them, and have a little sympathy. We promise we won't yell "jock" anymore.

CIAU scores & standings

CIAU Men's Basketball Championships
Metro Centre, Halifax N.S.
March, 16-18

1. St. Francis Xavier X-Men
2. University of Western Ontario Mustangs
3. Brandon University Bobcats
4. Carleton University Ravens
5. McMaster University Marauders
6. Saint Mary's University Huskies
7. **University of Victoria Vikes**
8. Universite Laval Rouge et Or

Quarterfinals
Friday, March 16

St. Francis Xavier 95, Laval 68
Western 77, Victoria 64
Brandon 65, St. Mary's 57
McMaster 78, Carleton 77

Consolation, Semifinals
Saturday, March 17

St. Mary's 90, Victoria 58
Carleton 97, Laval 86

Championship Semifinals
Saturday, March 17

St. Francis Xavier 78, McMaster 76
Brandon 77, Western 76

Consolation Final
Sunday, March 18

Carleton 86, St. Mary's 67

Championship Final
Sunday, March 18

St. Francis Xavier 83, Brandon 67 (OT)

Tournament All-Star Team:
Steve Maga, G (Mac)
Andy Kwiatkowski, F (UWO)
Fred Perry, F (St. FX)
Ernest Bell, F (Brandon)
Charleton Weasel Head, G (Brandon)
Tournament MVP: Randy Nohr (St. FX)

CIAU Awards:
Most Outstanding Player of the Year (Mike Moser Memorial Trophy): Steve Maga, G (Mac)
Ken Shields–TSN Award: Chris Peskun, G (Mac)
Coach of the Year (Stuart W. Aberdeen Memorial Trophy): Steve Konchalski (St. FX)
Rookie of the Year (Dr. Peter Mullins Trophy): Charles Fortier, G (Laval)
First Team All-Canadians:
Steve Maga, G (Mac)
Randy Nohr, G (St. FX)
Fred Perry, F (St. FX)
Ernest Bell, G (Brandon)
Nick Maglisceau, F (Alberta)
Second Team All-Canadians:
Jonah Taussig, G (SMU)
Ali Wilmott, G (Victoria)
Andy Kwiatkowski, F (UWO)
Rob Smart, G (Carleton)
Charles Fortier, G (Laval)

Previous CIAU Champions:
2001: St Francis Xavier
2000: St. Francis Xavier
1999: St. Mary's
1998: Bishop's
1997: Victoria
1996: Brandon

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Public Radio

Playlist for Mar 9-16
chart compiled by lindsay cooper

Title	Title	Label
1 Rae & Christian	Sleepwalking	K7!
2 The Be Good Tanyas*	Blue Horse	Porch
3 Tortoise	Standards	Thrill Jockey
4 Mocean Worker	Aural & Healthy	Palm
5 ARS Antiqua	Remixed	Atom Candy
6 KC Acciedental*	Anthems for the.	Noise Factory
7 Motorhead	Best of...	Sanctuary
8 Ladytron	604	Emperor N...
9 Lemon Jelly	S/T	Beggars B...
10 Magnetophone	S/T	4AD

ranking reflects airplay * denotes Canadian content

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Ground beef and nacho cheese

A sports fan look at the 'magical' Vancouver Grizzlies

> As soon as the Blazers got close to the magical number, the whole upper bowl rose up en masse and started chanted "Cha-lou-pa, Cha-lou-pa" in fevered anticipation of the free snack ahead.

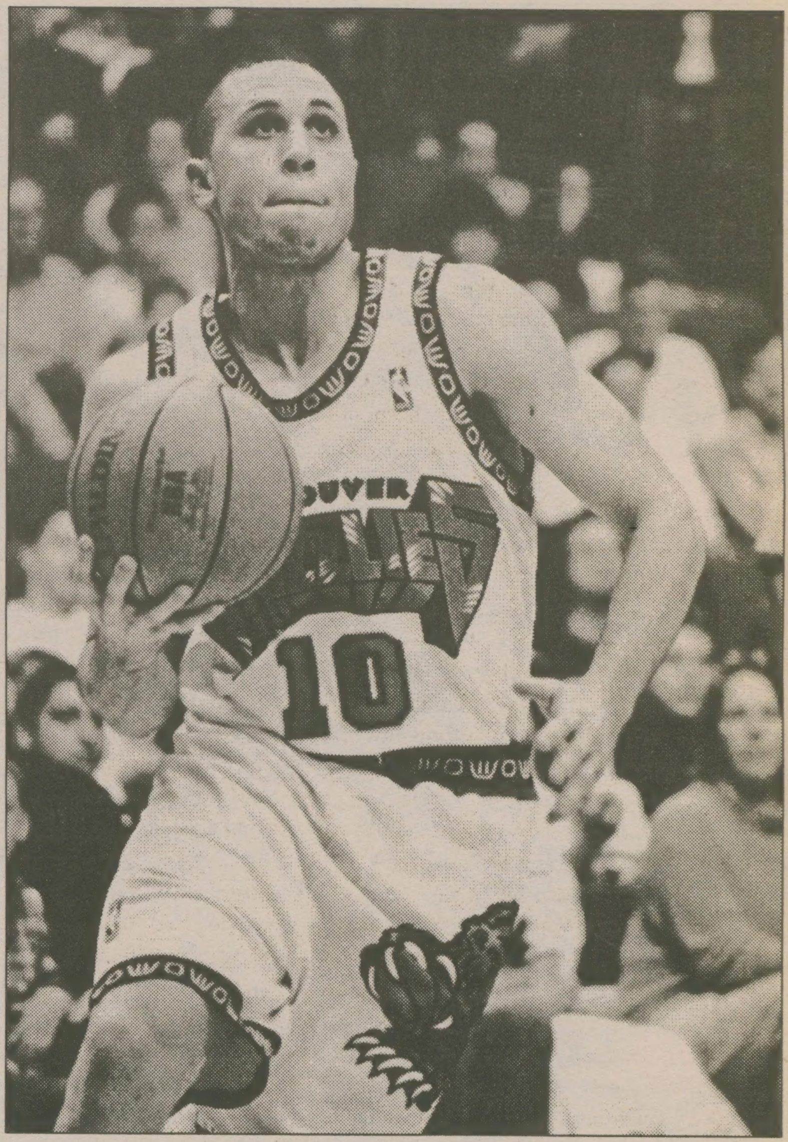


photo by Jeff Benitol

Point guard Mike Bibby (#10) in Grizzlie action.

by Iain McLetchie

Long before all this hub-bub concerning their impending move to, well, anywhere within the continental United States, a few bosom buddies and I decided to treat ourselves to a Vancouver Grizzlies game.

You know, the Grizzlies: that National Basketball Association franchise of lovable losers and highly-unidentifiable multi-millionaires. Their opponents were the Portland TrailBlazers, a highly talented and mega-combustible group of athletes who also happen to compose one of the finest teams in the NBA.

Curiously enough, the last professional match I had attended was in the Rose City itself (a.k.a. Portland). The contest, earlier this season, saw the hometown Blazers lay some serious smack down on the Grizzlies collective arse, going over the century plateau in the process. Now, this statistical fact is of great importance for one of the favourite promotions in the NBA is free chaloupa's for all ticket holders when the hometown team hits the 100 point mark.

As soon as the Blazers got close to the magical number, the whole upper bowl rose up en masse and started chanted "Cha-lou-pa, Cha-lou-pa" in fevered anticipation of the free snack ahead. When the Blazers Steve Smith stepped up and sunk a trey with only 32 seconds left on the clock, the Rose Garden erupted. Scores of fans thronged toward the exits, thrilled with the prospect of filling their already bloated bellies with ground beef and nacho cheese. Thank you, Steve. It ought to be noted that the Grizz didn't react unfavourably to this display. Then again, it could be that the lads are simply used to seeing visiting fans go home with smiles on their faces. Ah, but I digress. Back to the game at hand.

One must understand that previous to this match, the Blazers had been manhandled by both Vancouver and the powerful San Antonio Spurs. With that in mind, the knowledgeable basketball fan that I am, I confidently predicted a Blazer rout. It's a good thing I'm not a gambling man, because the complete reverse was played out. In an upset of near-Miracle on Ice proportions, the hometown Grizz shellacked the Blazers in front of a wild and crazy crowd. With two minutes left, as it became readily apparent that Vancouver was going to emerge victorious, the crowd stood up and roared it's approval. It was truly a magical moment.

Vancouver's rookie small forward Stromile Swift showed the high-rising, death-defying hops which had made him such a highly-coveted draft pick; Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf displayed the cunning and dead-eye shooting which he used to exhibit regularly when he was still known as Chris Jackson; and centre Tony Massenburg (he of the large biceps and well traveled Samsonite luggage) simply dominated down in the paint.

Indeed, the only down sides were watching shooting guard Eric Strickland run around like the proverbial chicken, *sans tete*, chucking up wild heaves; and Ike Austin looking like, well, Ike: Slow, and showing off the highly rusted skills which made him such an unsought-after free agent. Bryant "Big Country" Reeves was nowhere to be seen, but then again that was probably a good thing.

So it was a brilliant match, and one that left myself and the boys pondering the future of basketball in Vancouver. And before you get indignant, forget about this mysterious Canadian who's going to step in and save the franchise. That's just sheer economic lunacy. It doesn't take a finance major to see that taking in revenues in a highly devalued Canadian currency whilst paying players in US funds isn't a workable proposition.

However, outside of this minor glitch, there's no reason that basketball shouldn't work in Vancouver. The Lower Mainland and the Island are bastions of high school basketball – one need only look at the popularity and immense media coverage given to the AAA boys provincial championship tournament, year after year, to understand that there is a huge base of support for basketball in Southern B.C.

Would this situation be any different if local lad Steve Nash were in Vancouver? I don't think so, but a myriad of callers to Don Taylor's LateNight Grill (a popular sports radio program in Vancouver) seem to think so. It's obvious that the shoddy marketing job perpetrated by Michael Heisley, the new ownership team, as well as the perception that basketball players are just highly-paid, whining, unappreciative imports have tainted the overall image of professional basketball in B.C.

Would a local fella change that perception? You bet, but that's all sheer conjecture. Even if the Grizz were to somehow stay, there's no way in Hades the Mavericks would give up Nash's ascending star.

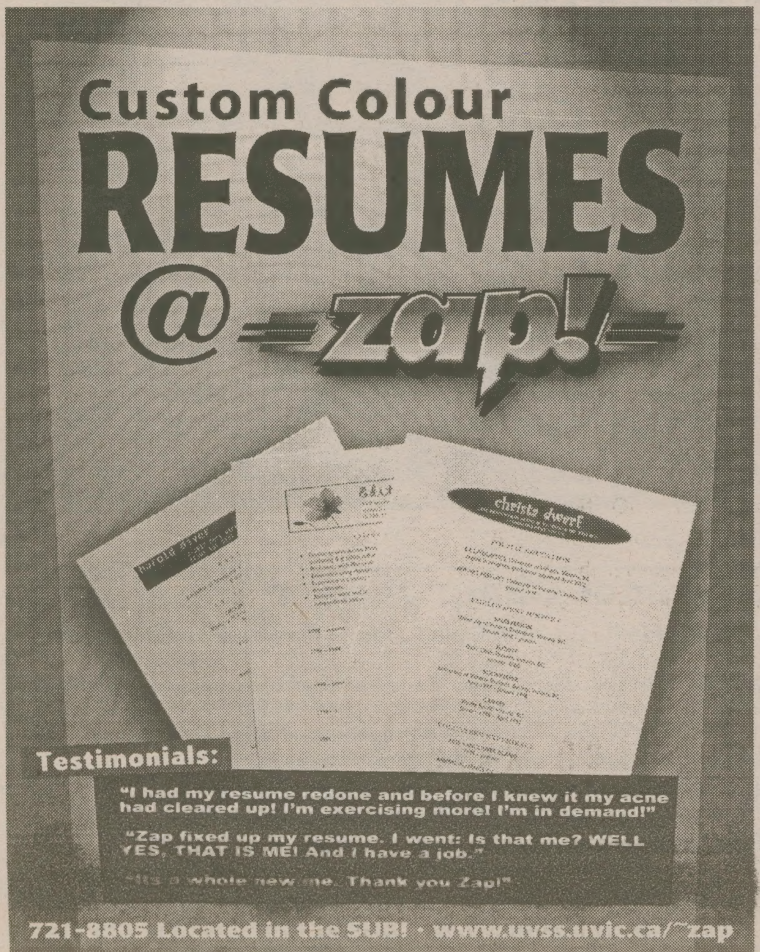
Fortunately for Vancouverites, there's a new kid in town. (No, not Don Henley). Yes, the Vancouver Giants are up and running. What sport do the Giant's play you ask? Well, it can't be NFL football (there's already a New York Giants) and it can't be baseball (uh, there's already a Giant's franchise – the San Francisco variety), and god forbid it's curling. No, these lads are the newest group to join the Western Hockey League. You know, this might just work out.

You can bet the disenchanted fan who has grown alienated by the high salaries and egos displayed in professional sports will flock to the Giants. The Chicago Wolves of the IHL (minor pro hockey) are already drawing the size of crowd that attend Blackhawks games, and they are extremely popular with the middle and lower-income earners in Chicago.

Detroit also has two professional hockey franchises, the Wings (NHL) and the Vipers (IHL), and Calgary has the Flames and the Hitmen (WHL), so there's no reason that a hockey-rabid city such as Vancouver can't support both.

So all in all, Vancouver's sporting scene really isn't all that shabby. The 'Nuckers look like they're going to make the playoff after all, despite their best efforts to produce another, patented late-season collapse. The Giant's will be a solid addition to the city, and the Grizz... well, forget about the Grizz. There's still tons of university and high school hoops to watch.

Now if only Victoria could produce something better than the Salsa and the Shamrocks, maybe this town wouldn't be the sports fan's purgatory that it is.



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3
2
1
PAPERS
TO GO

letters continued from page 9

aware, to date Peter has been banned from the SUB, as well as every other building on campus. Not even when Peter requested special permission to attend the eco-fair in the SUB held on March 14 was he granted access to the building.

This has gone WAY too far. The SUB is the student's building, "run by the students, for the students." I am a student here and have been for four years. I am the reason this university is here. We are UVic and we, the students, should have a say, and the ONLY say in what happens in the SUB.

As far as I'm concerned, Peter is a part of the UVic student body. He has been a part of this university longer than any of us. He *gives* to us. He spends time with us in debate and conversation, encouraging us to think critically. He is more a part of UVic and what it *should* stand for than any of the names behind these silly decisions. We should be regarding him as an elder and not a problem.

Peter is welcome at my university. He is welcome to educate and be educated. He is welcome to discuss and question and think. This is what a university is for. This is higher learning. This is *not* a place run by a corporate agenda and faceless executives. This is *not* a place of exclusion.

Through all of this my major concern is that we have lost a sense of the larger picture. We have failed to allow humanity to be a basis of decision. We need to think about what we have done by choosing to exclude Peter, and we need to be frightened by our actions. I know that I am not the only student who feels this way and I propose that we come together and honour Peter for his time and contributions to UVic. (even though I know that this may not be what Peter wants), but in doing so, we can re-evaluate our mindset and seriously consider who it is that is holding the controls to our university, and what direction we are headed in. For now, I want to know *who* are the people making these decisions and I want to know *what* the basis of these decisions are. I want to know *who* on the UVSS is voting on this issue and *why*.

With concern for our community,

Faith Whiting

A call for assistance

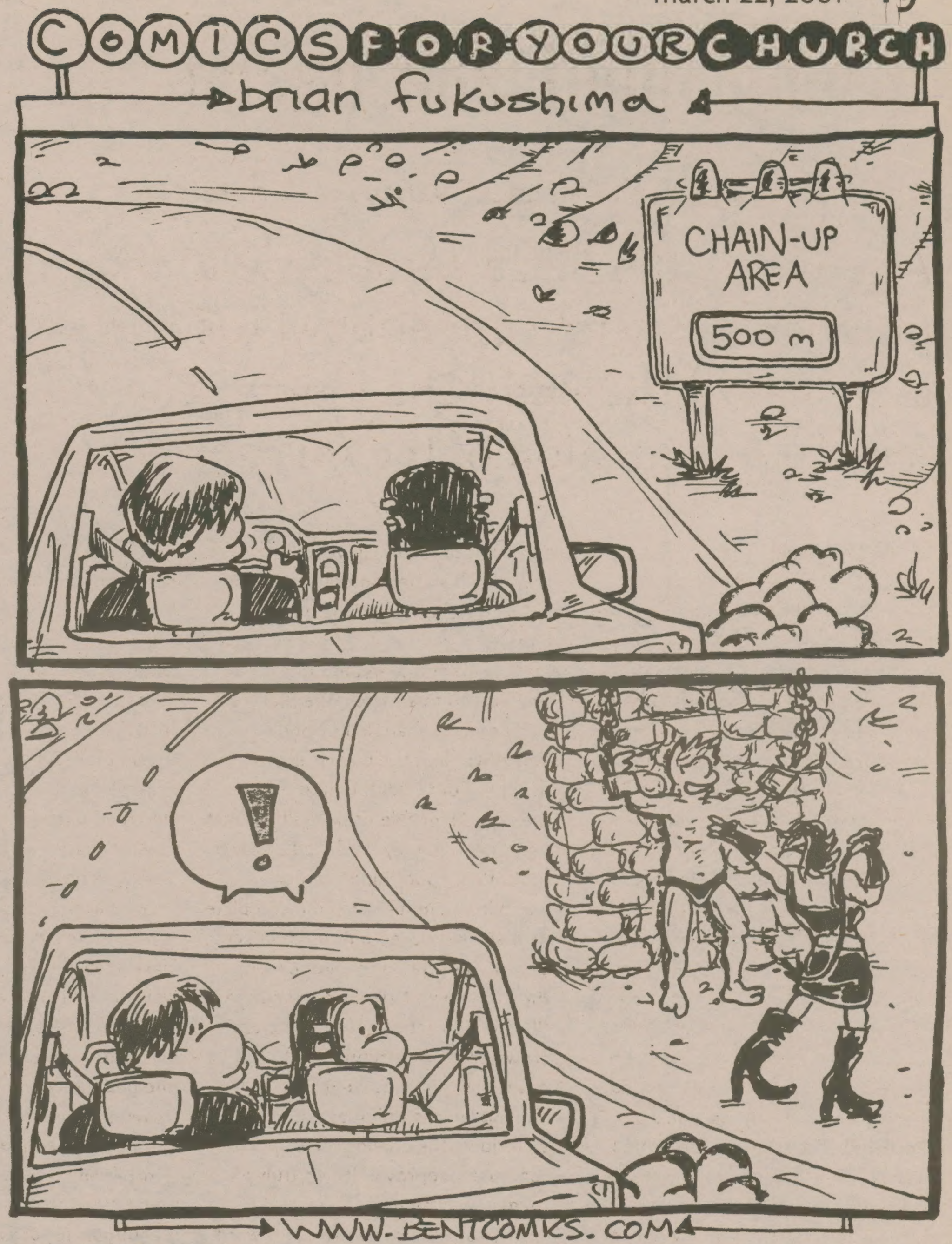
We live in the Gulf Islands at a location with no land-line telephone service.

We have received unfair incoming long distance charges on our Telus cell phone bills. B.C. Cellular used to credit us; now as Telus they refuse. The CRTC does not regulate cell phone companies so there is no consumer protection. Losing from five to ten dollars per month could be significant if multiplied by many cell phone customers.

Even though we are at home, anytime we answer our cell phone we are subject to long distance charges, depending on which of their cell sites rings our phone. These incoming long distance rates are not subject to any competition.

Telus says we could change our phone number, but won't give any assurance that with continued use of our cell phone at home, we won't have as many or more calls with long distance charges. If any of you have this problem or could give any helpful suggestions, please call (250) 888-1910.

N. and J. Swartz



ON CAMPUS

A community forum: Creating Dialogue on Sexual Orientation – Becoming an Allie. **March 26,** 2:30-4:30, Cornett B108. Committee on the Status of Sexual Minorities. Panel and discussion to follow. Contact svilches@home.com

FREE Homebuyer/Mortgage Seminar. Tues. March 27 at 7:00 p.m. UVic SUB Rm. B025. For information or to register call Gail Pettinger of Gillespie Pettinger Buyers Agent Ltd. at 812-4088 or Bill jones of INVIS Financial at 592-9400.

CHAI Victoria – Jewish Students Association offers a full and varied schedule of programming. Feel free to check us out or to join us at our next event. For more details, please contact us at jewish@uvic.ca or at the INFO-LINE 370-9488, ext. 2.

New service! Two Jewish chaplains are now available on campus. Gidi Nahshon, MSW, is available on Mondays and Wednesdays 5-6 pm, while Joel Fagan, MD, is available on Tuesdays 4-5 pm. Drop by to discuss what's on your mind – not just spiritual matters. For more information, please contact 721-8338.

"Ring-Out" the week with Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship every Friday night! Everyone is welcome to join us for Praise, Worship, Singing, Prayer, Fellowship and Teaching! Have a Bible? Bring it! See you Friday nights for Ring-Out in Cle C 112 at 7:30 p.m.

OFF CAMPUS

Mobilize for global justice! Help fight the FTAA. Information meeting held at Fernwood Community Association, 1923 Fernwood. **Thurs. March 22,** 7 p.m.

Come to the Drip Café on Tues. March 27 at 7 p.m. to hear some of Victoria's funkiest readers, writers and/or exhibitionists. Pen to Mouth literary reading is put on by Writter's Overloade and all proceeds go to the Monze Hospital in Zambia. $3 at the door. Oh yeah, Nick O'Teen will be hosting so don't miss out!

Café Philosophy: Taking public philosophy to a new level. Next topic Friendship: What does it mean to be a friend? Can there be love without friendship? How does friendship help individuals to grow? **Wed. March 28** at 7:30 p.m. De Torrefazione Italia (1234 Government St.), cover $4/$3 for students. For more information call Michael Picard, Ph.D., at 385-4646 or e-mail pyro@philosophy-shop.com

The 2001 Inner Harbour Review launch and reading, **Fri. March 30** at 8 p.m. at Open Space, 510 Fort St. Features readers and an open-mic.

TUTORS

French – essays, translation, grammar, literature and discussion. $15/hr. Magali 598-3344.

English/Philosophy. Essay critique, proofreading, assignment discussion, etc. Enjoy learning but need a little assistance to fulfill your potential? I can help. Call Janet at 595-8438.

French tutor needed. I need someone to explain French grammar at 182 level. Preferably with a B+ or A average. I'm willing to pay $20/hr. Please call Margot at 598-0209 if you can help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Therapeutic Massage. Professional Massage Therapist offering one hour sessions for only $30.00. Methods focus on relief from chronic pain, deep relaxation, and the balancing of all body systems. David 592-0149.

Transforming Family Life with Gary Reiss, Certified process trainer. Process Orientated Family Therapy offers tools for dealing with the intense flames of family life. For individuals and couples who want to work on their own families, and therapists who want to learn more about this method of working with families. **April 20, 21,** and **22.** Registration $190 before April 6. Contact 384-2870.

Pottery, sculpture & hand-building classes with continuous registration available. Six 2.5 hour classes, flexible, $160. Call Potter's Corner at 383-5446 for more details.

Wanted: Backstreet Boys impersonators. Win cash & prizes! Email: bsbu@hotmail.com for more information.

HELP WANTED

Do you have a B.A. or M.A. Degree? If so... would you like to work at your own pace from the comfort of your own home? We are a Vancouver-based editing company seeking to hire staff for professional document editing. For more information and to apply, visit www.einscribe.net

Outdoor Ed & Summer Camp opportunities available at Camp Chief Hector in Seebe, Alberta! We are looking for enthusiastic staff to run Earth Ed. & Outdoor Pursuits programs for spring/summer. For more info email thompsonsara@hotmail.com

Movie music needed for a 16mm feature film. We're looking for unique music that mixes various styles. This is a no-budget production, so we cannot pay for submissions. Demos can be dropped off at CineVic, 101-610 Johnson St. from 10-3, Tues. to Sat. For more info, including a synopsis of the film, email Erin at to_be_decided@yahoo.com

The Lions Society of B.C. is seeking counsellors and programmers for our residential summer camps on Vancouver Island, in Squamish and the Okanagan. We provide a camping experience for children and teens with disabilities. Employment runs from June through August. Send resume and cover letter to: Camp Administrator, Lions Society of B.C., 201-3440 Douglas St., Victoria, B.C., V8Z-3L5. A criminal record search will be required of successful applicants.

Quality English teaching jobs in Korea. Good salaries & free airfare and accommodation. Easily save 15K in one year. Degree required. Tel: 604-408-3760 or fax 604-408-3761. Info at www.asia-pacific-connections.com

Painters wanted – Experience an asset but not necessary. Vehicle an asset. Call Casey at 721-5906.

Attention university/college students: full-time spring and summer jobs available in marketing and painting. No experience necessary. Car an asset. Leave message at 475-8321.

Thinking about working for a summer camp in the US? I've got the goods... email any questions about Mah-Kee-Nac or Danbee to bcook023@hotmail.com

Travel – teach English. 5 day/40 hr (**May 16-20**) TESOL teacher cert. course (or by correspondence). 1,000s of jobs available NOW. Free info pack, toll free 1-888-270-2941.

FOR SALE

Great student business! Moving/delivery service, diesel truck, furniture delivery contract. www.suitemoves.com $15,500 call 704-6683

LOST & FOUND

Lost my sketchbook in Cinecenta – return for reward – call 385-7374.

Lost: Harvest gold reclining armchair. Circa 1978. Last seen in front of "Rezoning Application" sign on Ring Road. Answers to "Harvey." Where's my damn chair? 888-4200

HEY YOU

Hey Miss Georgia. Never mind the chain-smoking and nomadic furniture. The real side-effects are these damn green horns and my *Martlet* fetish.

Hey, Alastair Champion, we miss you, we love you, come back! New Zealand's for losers.

Reezybay, ten thousand lotus blossoms bow down to your beauties! – Andapay

To the **perspicuous** one: **Happy Birthday,** Sunny-boy! – Molasses

Joe & Terri: Please gather your hearts and baggies.

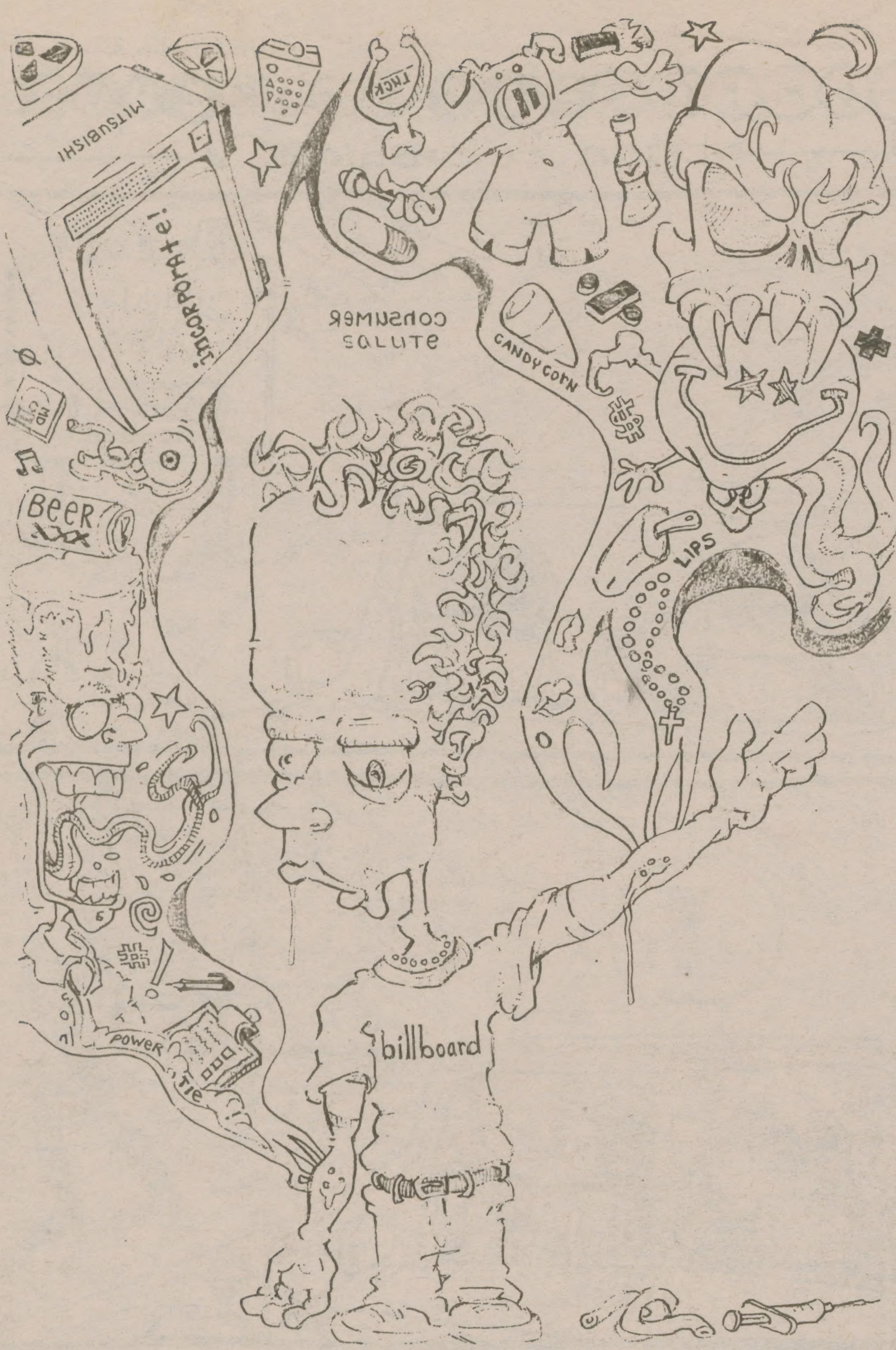
Ladle: wherever did my favourite turquoise sock go?

Next time I wear my boots, lady, you better watch your brown cord ass.

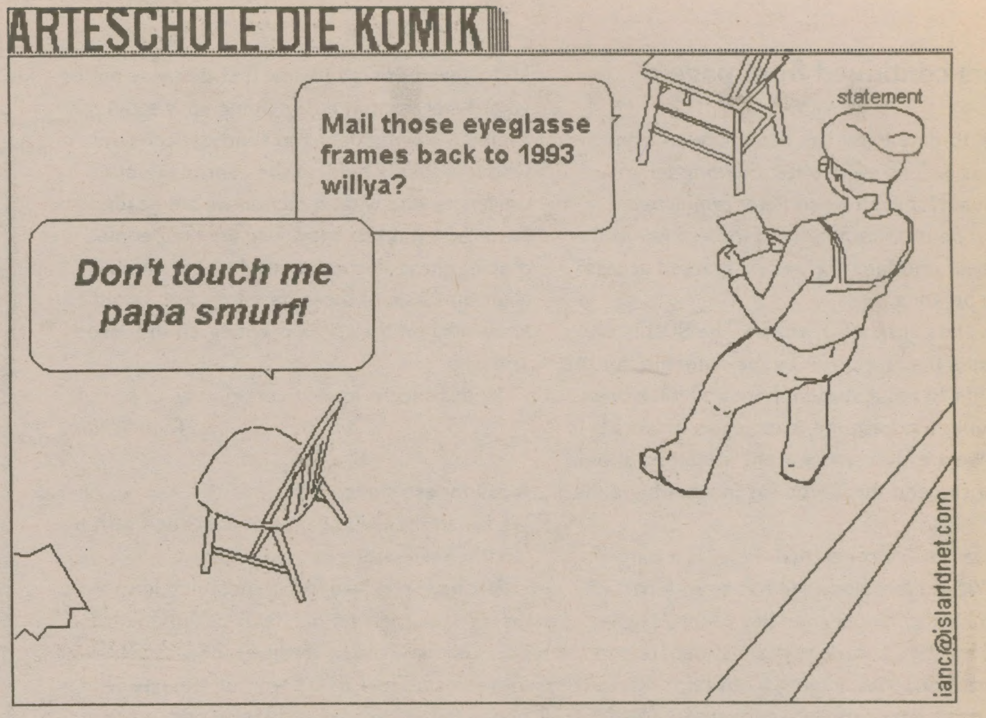
BILLBOARD RATES

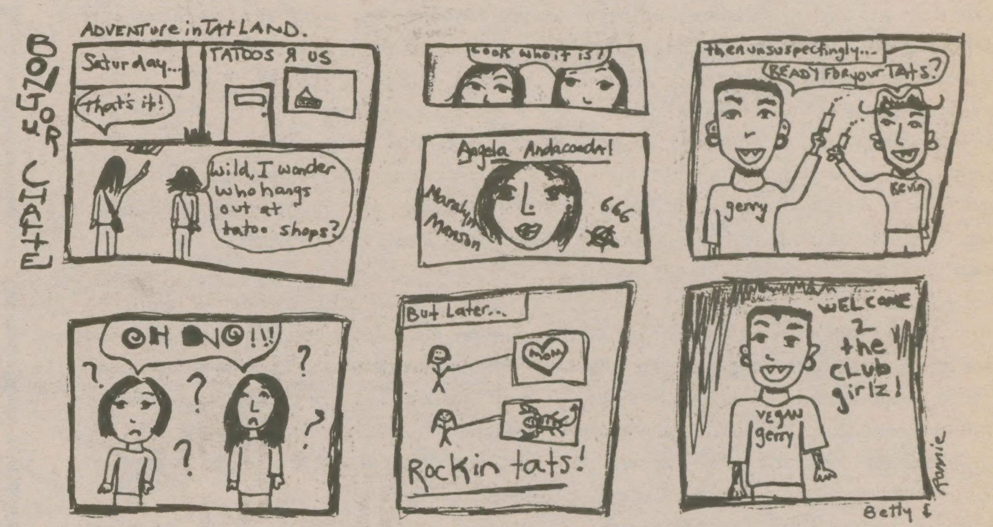
students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines
hey you!	$1/issue

All advertisments on the billboards page must adhere to the following statement:
"Everyone is welcome. We oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, class, age and ability."

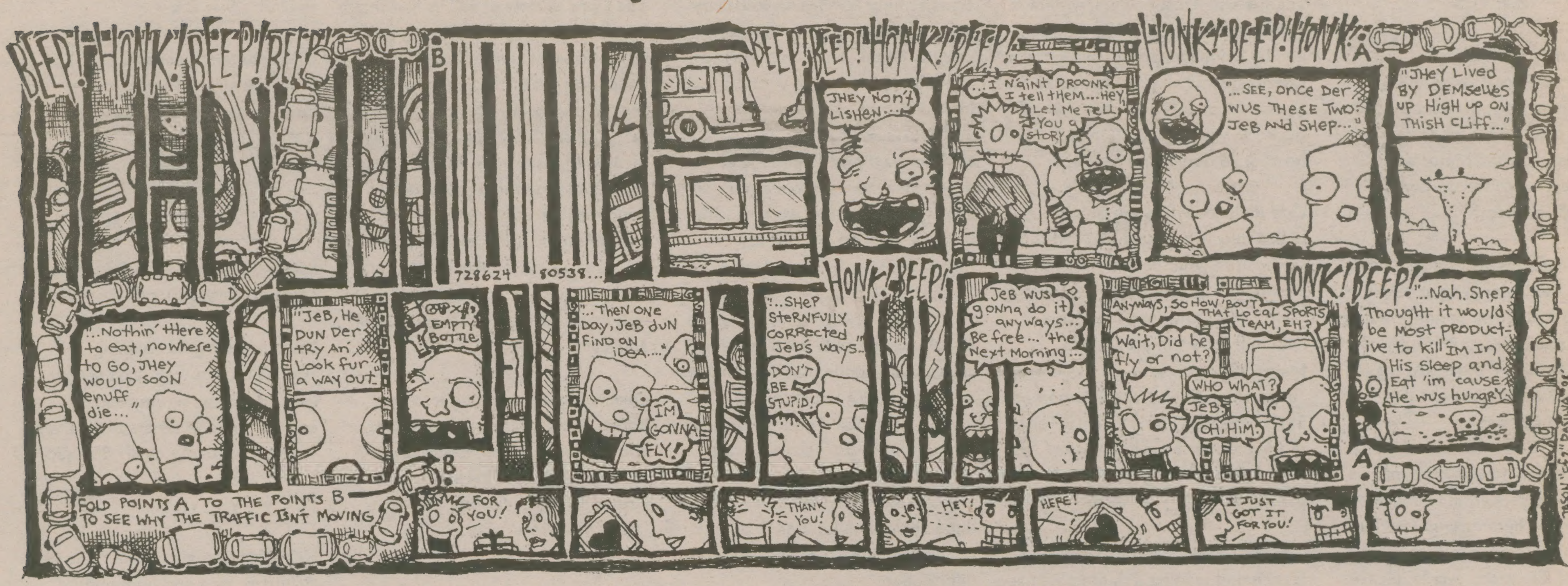

MITSUBISHI
incorporate!
CONSUMER SALUTE
CANDY CORN
LIPS
Beer XXX
POWER TIE
billboard

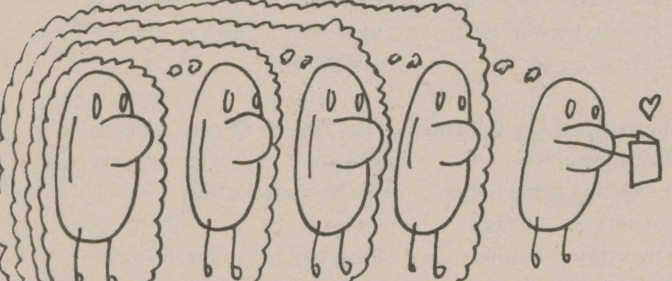
useless generation


ARTESCHULE DIE KOMIK
statement
Mail those eyeglasse frames back to 1993 willya?
Don't touch me papa smurf!
ianc@islartdnet.com


BONJOUR CHATTE
ADVENTURE in TAT LAND.
Saturday...
that's it!
TATOOS Я US
Wild, I wonder who hangs out at tatoo shops?
Look who it is!
Angela Andaconda!
Maralyn Manson
666
then unsuspectingly...
READY FOR your TATs?
gerry
Kevin
OH NO!!!
?
But Later...
MOM
Rockin tats!
WELCOME 2 the CLUB girlz!
VEGAN gerry
Ronnie
Betty &

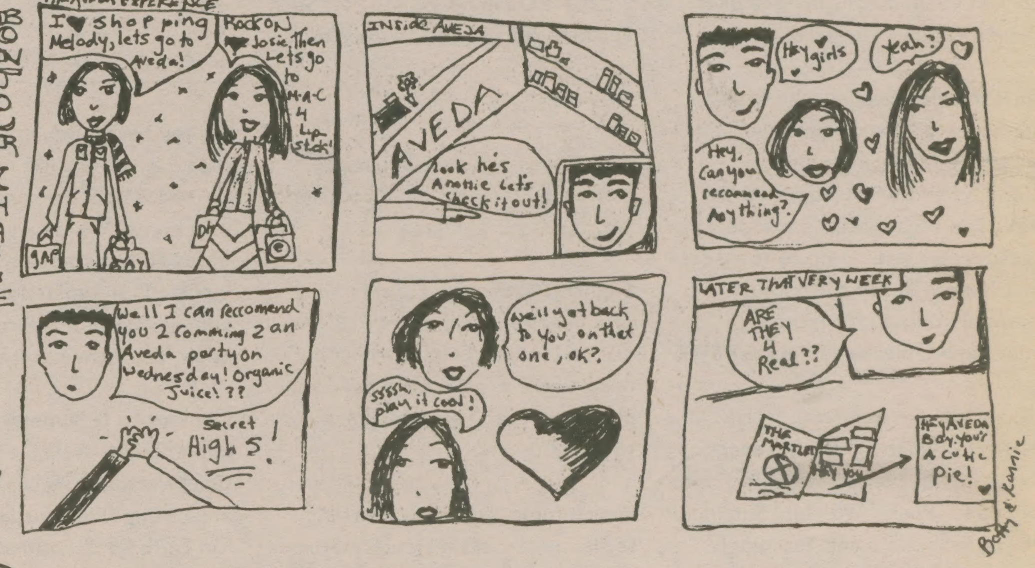
KEEP THOSE COMICS COMING

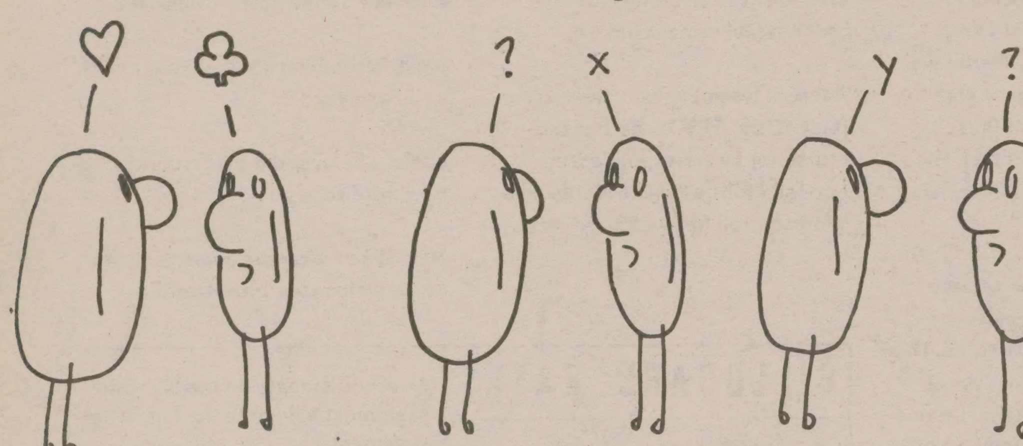

BEEP! HONK! BEEP! BEEP!
B
728624 80538...
BEEP! BEEP! HONK! BEEP!
JHEY Non't LISHEN...
...I N'aint DROONK I tell tHEM... HEY, Let Me TELL YOU a STORY
HONK! BEEP! HONK! A
"...SEE, once Der WUS THESE TWO: JEB AND SHEP..."
"JHEY Lived BY DEMselves up High up ON THISH CLiff..."
"...Nothin' there to eat, nowhere to GO, JHey WOULD SOON enuff die..."
"JeB, He DUN Der try An' Look fur a WAY OUT."
EMPTY BOTTLE
"...Then ONE Day, JeB duN FIND AN iDEA...."
I'M GONNA FLY!
HONK! BEEP!
"...SHeP SterNFULLY CORRected Jeb's ways."
DON'T BE STUPID!
JeB WUS gonna do it anyways... Be free... 'the Next Morning...
HONK! BEEP!
Anyways, So How 'BOUT THAT Local SPORTS TEAM, EH?
Wait, Did he fly or not?
WHO WHAT?
JEB.
OH, HIM.
"...Nah. SheP Thought it would be Most PRODUCTive to kill 'IM In His sleep and Eat 'im cause He wus hungry."
A
B
FOLD POINTS A TO THE POINTS B TO SEE WHY THE TRAFFIC ISN'T MOVING
FOR YOU!
THANK YOU!
HEY!
HERE!
I JUST GOT IT FOR YOU!
JASON "EZ" DASILVA '98



Goombas lh

Thinking of thinking of thinking of thinking of you Hallmark Cards


BONJOUR CHATTE
THE AVEDA EXPERIENCE
I ♥ shopping Melody, lets go to Aveda!
Rock ON ♥ Josie. Then Lets go to M-A-C 4 Lip-Stick!
GAP
INSIDE AVEDA
AVEDA
look he's A cutie Let's check it out!
Hey ♥ girls
yeah?
Hey, Can you recommend Anything?
Well I can reccomend you 2 comming 2 an Aveda party on Wednesday! Organic Juice! ??
Secret High 5!
we'll get back to you on that one, ok?
ssssh play it cool!
LATER THAT VERY WEEK
ARE THEY 4 Real??
THE MARTLET
Hey you
Hey AVEDA Boy you's A cutie Pie!
Betty & Ronnie



Mocking those who reject you

oombas lh

THE MARTLET
# comics